METRO / A21
Rob suspect disrupts QC court, takes stenographer hostage

BUSINESS / B1
Korean firm to invest $684M more in Subic; shipping jobs to double in '08

WORLD / A23
FBI raids home of Alaska senator over bribery allegations

ENTERTAINMENT / E1
Pictorial: Dolphy parties with who's who in show biz in 'Gangsta'-themed 79th birthday

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 1, 2007 44 Sections / Vol. 22 / No. 224 P18 www.inquirer.net

'Imelda next gov't witness vs Lucio Tan'

By Dexter L. Lucas, Reporter
and Elvira Paz Bugat

THE "DIVIDEST ALLIANCE BETWEEN the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos would be put to the test today when Bongbong Marcos, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. testifies for the government side against the country's richest businessman.

More importantly, the last item of Marcos, Orbos, Serapio & Tan which appears in the younger Marcos' sound is slated yesterday saying that former first lady Imelda Marcos would also testify to bolster her family's position in the case.

"Unnamed sources also confirmed that [Mrs.] Marcos will be testifying after her son," the firm's statement said.

FULL STORY A4

AWESOME: Those kids have a majestic view of the spectacular aftermath of Mt. Bulusan's explosion from the Sorsogon City pier. The ash clouds rose as high as 1 km, according to Phivolcs.

Salonga wins Magsaysay Award

JESUS SALONGA

FORMER JESUIT PRIEST Jesus O. Salonga is among the seven winners of the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize. (For details, see Page A13.)

Salonga, 87, won the award for government service for "the exemplary integrity and substance of his long public career in service to democracy and good governance in the Philippines."

Of his being named a Magsaysay awardee, Salonga told the Inquirer: "I am humbled by the award. It's supposed to be a severe world we reserve the award on Aug. 31."

The six other winners included Bryce Thirteen activists, an Indian journalist who highlighted rural social issues, a South Korean scholar, for the disabled and a Hyderabad pioneer in wireless technology.

"The Magsaysay awardees of 2007 are truly moving this forward through their respective fields and selfless service to their respective societies," said Carmencita T. Abella, MAGSAYSAY AN

Mt. Bulusan erupts: 'Beautiful but scary'

By Bobby Lobaton, Inquirer Southern Luzon
and TJ Burgonio in Manila

SORSOGON CITY—THE PHILIPPINE COAST'S most active volcano yesterday unleashed more powerful steam-driven explosions in a big boom.

FULL STORY A3

'Big-time graft on the rise'

Emerging House 'Arroyo bloc' alarms opposition

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Norman Bordadora

THE EMERGENCE OF A SUPposed "Arroyo bloc" in the House of Representatives has raised the hackles of a militant party-list lawmaker.

"The deepest men from the most powerful bloc in Congress. It's unprecedented—no other family has ever assumed such control over the House," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño yesterday told the Inquirer.

He was referring to Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son and brother-in-law, who now chair the most important committees on energy and on natural resources, respectively.

CONTINUED A2

'Motif maestro' gives Asean venue that RP feeling

By Volt Contreras

DRESSING UP ATTACH VARIED meanings to an artwork or find more ways to appreciate its value, but the creations of Bayley Cano seem to have this characteristic. They innocently lampooned issues for affairs of state and international relations.

Twice, at last, has the Philippine government turned to this local artist—and to the makeover of the lobby, halls and meeting rooms used for top-level diplo-

MORE A10

HIGH AND DRY

MORE EARTH THAN WATER
The view from the top of Angat Dam in Bulacan from a small aircraft on another cloud-seeding run (June): officers release the seeds over the dam's as to block as car ins. As the water supply drops to alarming levels, stretches of earth and grassery appear where once they were underwater. [See story on Page B1]

BOBBY LLAMAS

Watchdog blames gov't air of secrecy for corruption

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SHROUD OF SECRECY surrounding high-level government contracts has led to the rise of "grander" and more lucrative corrupt practices in the Arroyo administration, anticorruption crusaders said yesterday.

But red tape and petty corruption, such as bribery have decreased because of the antered tape executive order issued by Malacañang last year, Vitaliano Lastrilla, executive director of Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), said.

The executive order ordered bureaucrats to streamline bureaucratic red tape in several front line agencies.

"Bribery is going down. But the grand or bigger types of corruption are on the rise," said Segundo Romero, a senior fellow at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), which presented yesterday anti-corruption prevention studies under the Corruption Prevention Action Project.

The observations made to support foreign businessmen's perception of corrup-

BIG STORY A 16

Vegans begin shunning sex with meat-eaters

WELLINGTON—THEY SAY YOU are what you eat—and growing numbers of vegans are shunning not only meat and cheese but most dairy products in "a great act of love animals," a New Zealand researcher says.

FULL STORY A 16

BIG SHOTS
US Ambassador Kristie Kenney (left) snaps a shot of US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, on an outing in the Philippines, posing with a Filipino student of the Manila High School which he donated 1,000 books and other school equipment on Tuesday.

Condi no-show a plus for China

ANALYSIS

ASIA'S LARGEST SECURITY meeting has a notable absence—Condoleezza Rice.

The US secretary of state is bringing the world's second-largest economy to another Asian security meeting, the annual ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila, but Rice's decision to skip the Asean security meeting for a second year—perceived by some in the region as a slight—comes at a difficult time for Americans diplomats in Southeast Asia, already assailed by complaints that Washington is turning its back on a part of the world that once stood near the top of its foreign policy agenda.

It also comes as China, the new megapower on the South

CONDOLEEZZA A 16

Rights violators to be treated 'Asean way'

By Cynthia D. Balana

LEADERS OF THE 10-MEMBER Association of Southeast Asian Nations can exercise recalcitrant members, although this is not to ground in the draft of the landmark Asean charter now being finalized by the High Level Task Force (HLTF).

Ambassador Rosario Manalo, HLTF chair, dismissed criticisms by Western diplomats that the Asean rights body be restricted in the draft charter would be "toothless."

Manalo told reporters that Asean leaders would rather address violations or confront a regional issue the "Asean way" and would not resort to sanctions or the expulsion of members as much as possible.

"The general approach is consultation and consensus. That's the way of doing things in Asean. Up to every level possible before the hands of state, that is going to be applied," she stressed.

"If we can't bring about a consensus, then it will be dis-

RIGHTS A 16

6/42 LUZ/VIS/MIN
1 2 11 26 29 40
PHP 302,692.40

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Beheading suspects vanish

Basilan village a virtual 'ghost town' as troops move in with arrest warrant

ALBARKA, BASILAN—HUNDREDS OF HEAVILY armed police swept into this village just before dawn yesterday to arrest Moro separatists accused of killing and beheading government soldiers but the suspects were gone along with all the residents.

An AFP photographer joined the 300-person task force in the seizure of Barangay Kalugan on Basilan island as they tried to serve arrest warrants against some of the 130 suspects, allegedly to be members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Abu Sayyaf extremists, accused of killing 14 Marines and beheading 10 of them on July 10.

The soldiers had arrested two other MILF men while searching for the beheaded soldiers in Lamitan, Basilan's capital city, who has since been freed for insufficient evidence.

However, nearly 6,000 residents of Barangay Kalugan and three other nearby villages fled after the killings in fear of being caught up in a military assault. And not one suspect could be found yesterday.

"We knocked on three houses but there was nobody there," said the Basilan provincial police chief Supt. Saleh Mucsapenie.

The team also went to a suspected MILF camp in the area, in Barka (formerly Tipo-tipo), "but it was abandoned as well," he said.

In Manila, Malacañang ordered all the deadlines for the serving of arrest warrants to the suspects, effective 10 a.m. yesterday, at the request of the joint coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (CCCH), which is helping in the investigation.

The Philippine National Police agreed to give the committee until Thursday to submit a report on its investigation to the beheadings.

However, Mucsapenie said the order on the postponement "came late for the troops on the ground."

Police officers serving the warrants went to Sitio Pulpuli, Colonia in Albarka town yesterday small hours one in a convoy of 10 vehicles backed by an armored troop transport until mounted machine guns. They had to take the final 1.5 kilometers because roads did not reach that far.

Mucsapenie said the only resistance they met at the MILF camp came from armed dogs which appeared to be hungry and angry.

"All the bunkers were empty and their security obstacles were unmanned," he said.

The adjacent villages where the relatives of the MILF members lived were also deserted. "Like the houses had been empty for a couple of days," he said.

He said an additional problem was that they did not know how to go about serving the warrants to the MILF men who are in the custody of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in the Isabela City jail.

"We don't want to commit mistakes by arresting innocent people," he said, adding that sketches of the suspects would be issued as well as the cooperation of the local government.

The 12,000-member MILF, which has been observing a three-year truce with the government amid efforts to bring a negotiated end to decades of insurgency in Mindanao, has said its forces killed the Marines but has denied murdering the bodies of the Marines and rejected a military demand to turn over those behind the attack.

The President suspended a planned punitive military operation against the MILF to allow for the arrest of the suspects.

"The military has deployed four large military units in Basilan to support the policemen serving the arrest warrants.

The action against the MILF was delayed until Tuesday following a meeting by Japan and Canada that they would halt their aid programs in the event of the fighting resumed.

During a visit to Camp Crame yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he favored any extension of the serving of the warrants but it would have to be coordinated by the CCCH with commanders on the ground.

"It's not for the President to decide ... he's not in the field—commanders and the chief of the PNP to decide. It is up to the police to evaluate if no extension is worth it," Ermita told reporters.

He also said that while it was important to coordinate with the peace talks with the MILF, the PNP should follow legal procedures and carry out the warrants.

"There are a number of persons which is why we are executing our moves. If this was a combat encounter then there would be nothing to discuss. But because this is a heinous crime where they murdered soldiers and mutilated the body of our soldiers, that falls in a criminal act, which is why we are acting," Ermita said.

Norberto Gonzales, the national security adviser, flew to Basilan yesterday to talk with police and military officials about the circumstances of the deadline.

In agreeing to the extension, Gonzales said the government was really interested only in knowing who participated in the beheadings.

"We all know the beheadings took place and the mutilation of bodies happened. I don't think the CCCH will come out with a result that no beheading happened," he said.

"The government has given her directive that we get the perpetrators, that's the important thing. Whether we do it yesterday, tomorrow or today, I don't care, whatever, whenever they are, we will get them," Gonzales said.

But he said "we are not resorting toward total war."

Ermita, a retired Brigadier General, said the chair of the government negotiating panel, who renounced the CCCH request for the extension, said he and his MILF counterpart, "Ust. Al-Haq, had the arms concern.

He said the CCCH is coordinating the "positive manner" "to get the record straight and to verify the truth on what happened [on] July 10 and the incidents of beheading."

He said the list produced by the Department of Justice for the issuance of the arrest warrants did not specify who beheaded the Marines.

"The list was not long, it's the entire 134th guerrilla base command of the MILF I was taken aback by the number, it was twenty-some people were used [involved] 130 people cannot behead soldiers," Garcia said.

Garcia said the committee will make a report and submit it to the proper panels, and then the government can act against the perpetrators. —AFP and Michelle Zipagan with Julie S. Alipala, Edwin G. Fernandez, Noell B. Mendoza, Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
AIA
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
AUGUST 10, 19, 20 & 21
4-DAY Public Auction
AUGUST 09, 13, 14 & 15, '2007
FAMOUS ONE ARUCTIONEER
1 - WHEEL TRACTO-LOADERS
80 - DOZERS
42 - WHEEL LOADERS
140 - MOTOR GRADERS
100 - 30W DUMP TRUCKS
35 - WATER TANK
37 - TRACTOR HEADS
GENERATOR SETS
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Neophytes improve House attendance

By Norman Bordadora

IN THE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM in the House of Representatives a thing of the past?

In the first two session days of the 14th Congress, the House, which had been criticized for the truancy of its members, appeared to be shedding this bad habit.

An average of 180 House members showed up in the first three session days, including the opening of Congress when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address. That Monday, July 23, the lower chamber achieved a record of votes with 203 members answering the roll call.

The last House had 224 members.

Majority Floor Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo said the chamber's 100 first-termers (including more than 80 first-time members) served to boost attendance because they were eager to extend sessions.

"Definitely, the first-termers are showing a keen interest in the workings of the House and an eagerness to learn," Defensor told the Inquirer.

He said ensuring attendance was one of the internal reform measures on the majority's agenda, which will be finalized next week for submission to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Exceptional instances

"This time we'll be more strict in calling the roll. It will only be dispensed with in very exceptional instances," Defensor said.

The House in the last Congress was faced with a serious attendance issue.

On the last session day the 13th Congress failed to pass such vital pieces of legislation as the Human Rights Compensation Act and the Clean/Abolition Bill because it failed to muster a quorum, or 50 percent plus one of its total membership.

Defensor said there would be penalties for absenteeism.

Rep. Rodolfo Antonino said, would involve cutting the number of meeting and special committees and cutting the memberships of some in. Potential committees to make them more efficient and responsive.

Defensor said cutting the committees might help make it easier for the committees to function as quorum.

He said that among the committees whose memberships would be cut were his own committee on rules (from 55 members to 35), on appropriations (180 to 100) and on accounts (75 to 45).

"The public works committee will also be cut," Defensor said.

2007 CENSUS

Be counted starting today

By Michelle V. Ramos

IF PEOPLE CAN'TFIND THE COMMUNITY, his and wearing 15-inch sprayed with pink hair bleach on next door any day this month, please spare them 15 minutes of your time and answer their questions, says the National Statistics Office (NSO) administrator Carmelita Ericta.

They are enumerators of the 2007 population census that will determine the latest population figures and other vital facts about Filipinos.

"Census taking is a gigantic task. We are once again asking for and counting on the cooperation of residents to please allow our authorized census enumerators to take a few minutes of your time for this important" focus said during the press launch of the PSPCEN (population census) 2007 held on Thursday at Bola Hotel in Quezon City.

She added that identity of the enumerators will be held confidential. Only the statistics will be reported.

Ericta said they have hired about 50,000 people to conduct the survey in 41,994 barangays in the country at a rate of P7 (dollar 0.15) per household. Besides the enumerators, they will be "other coded" with pink umbrellas and 10 trainings. They will also be wearing NSO marked shirts.

Besides the estimated 3,000 staffers and employees of the NSO, the census also involves 80,000 interviewers, 7,000 team supervisors and 1,000 area supervisors.

The coming census is already two years delayed because it was not allotted a budget in 2005 and 2006.

A population census is supposed to be conducted every five years. The last one, held in 2000, estimated the population at 76.5 million.

A periodic census provides country planners with accurate and timely statistics on the country's population. The updated information serves as basis for the internal revenue allotment for local governments units, apportionment of congressional seats, creation of new LGUs, among others.

Final count

Businesses and industries likewise benefit from census information to determine area for establishing businesses, estimating consumer demand for various goods and services, and the available supply of labor among others.

The new population count by province, city, municipality and barangay will be released by February 28, 2008. The final count is to be considered official upon proclamation by the President.

Socorro Abejo, officer-in-charge of the NSO's household statistics department, said the NSO has projected the current population of 91 million at 89.7 million, of which more than 53.7 million are below 15 years old.

If the census confirms this projection, it would translate to an estimated year-on-year population growth rate of 2.1 percent, showing down from the 2.36 percent recorded during the 2000 population census.

This would be a welcome development, said Abejo, noting that the growing population is one of the country's major problems.

However, she said this growth rate could still be considered "explosive" compared to other neighboring countries. Singapore's latest recorded is bringing down their growth rates to below 2 percent.

Ericta said the government should target a 2 percent population growth rate.

But Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the country's population growth rate now can use a second concern, especially with its expected slowdown and the increase in the country's economic growth. With Gale Pedroso, Inquirer Research

IN THE KNOW

A "CENSUS OF POPULATION" IS A complete count of all residents, Filipinos and foreigners alike, who "have stayed or are expected to stay for at least a total" in the country. The census will also include overseas Filipino workers.

Basic information to be gathered about each individual during the census include age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, employment and other demographic characteristics.

"Special areas" such as remote areas, institutions and condominiums will be given self-administered questionnaires to be filled in by the respondents.

Institutional populations such as those living in hospitals, asylums, penitentiaries, military camps, convents and seminaries will also be included. Gale Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Stepbrother denies killing Delgado

THE MAIN SUSPECT IN THE KILLING OF businessman Rolino Delgado has denied any involvement in the latter's murder.

Luis Gonzalez, a stepbrother of Delgado, said in a counter-affidavit—he submitted to the Department of Justice yesterday that he was confined at the Makati Medical Center on March 31, the day Delgado was found stabbed to death in his Makati apartment.

Gonzalez also submitted statements from 20 witnesses to support his claim.

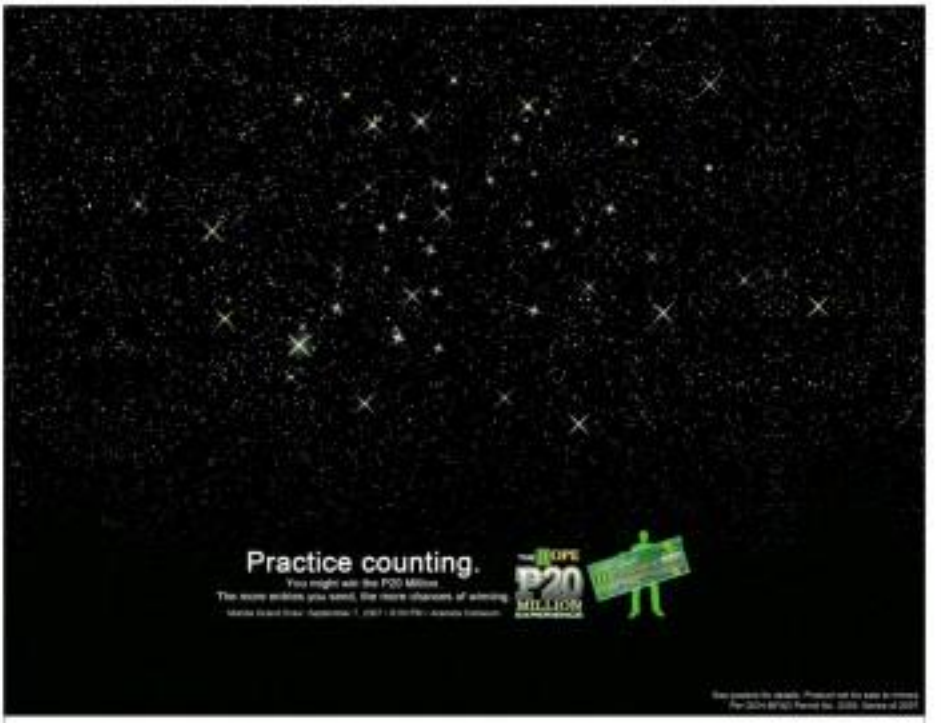
His psychiatrist, Jose Eduard Jurilla, has also said that it was "highly unlikely" for his patient to have killed his stepbrother because he was undergoing treatment for drug addiction at the Makati Medical Center where the killing took place.

Prosecutor Carlito Rodi-Layan said Delgado's family has until Aug. 8 to submit a reply, failing which the case would be deemed submitted for resolution. Gonzalez would also be given a chance to submit a rejoinder to his accusers' reply.

Gonzalez did not appear at the scheduled preliminary investigation of the murder complaint yesterday.

But Delgado's siblings and friends showed up, many of them in white and wearing red ones calling for justice for the slain businessman.

Delgado, the son of shipping magnate Francisco Delgado, was found dead in his Makati home on March 31. His companion, Analiza Nolasco, who was injured in the incident, implicated Gonzalez in the murder. (Jaikoh Atienza)



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Intense Pulsed Light Skin Renewal

To get perfectly spotless, blemish-free skin, enroll at Facial Care Centre and indulge yourself with the IPL (Intense Pulsed Light) skin-renewing program.

Get fresher, younger-looking skin! At Facial Care Centre, you'll have nothing but the best technologically advanced treatments, professional skin specialists and highly-trained therapists. All for the ultimate skincare experience you deserve. Trust the experts in skincare. Trust only Facial Care. Call for a FREE consultation.

892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO ERMITA ALABANG MANILA CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (045-3434) CEBU (233-7515)

Emerging House 'Arroyo bloc' alarms opposition

From page A1

Per House practice, Castillo said, members of the majority, including Speaker Jose de Venecia, could be elected vice chair of a committee.

Castillo raised the issue during the plenary session on Monday, seeking assurances that the designation of Mikey Arroyo and Iggy Arroyo was "not because of their closeness to the President" or meant to provide "proportional representation to the Arroyo bloc."

He claimed that the supposed bloc was headed by the "omnipotent and omnipresent" President because "nothing happens in the House without her approval."

But Deputy Majority Leader Negros Occidental Rep. Jeremiah Gonzales, a staunch supporter of Mrs. Arroyo, sought to put the Bayan Muna lawmaker in his place. "It is not the eight [of] the minority to inquire into the decisions of the majority in the same manner that it is not the business [of] the majority to inquire into the decisions of the [minority]."

Patronage politics

"In the House, committee chairmanships and membership are generally viewed as tools of patronage politics—prizes for supporting the winning leaders of the chamber.

Those elected "first members" or "chairs" of the committees by the House in plenary are usually chosen by the members of the majority to represent among themselves.

On Monday, Majority Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo moved for the election of the committee chairs by the House plenary. With no objection from the floor, their election was carried.

The minority, with members at just over 20, was in no position to contest the election in a plenary of more than 200 members.

Mikey Arroyo's selection as chair of the committee on energy at this time of an impending power crisis is being installed because of his lack of expertise in the field.

The worst shortage, a problem that would fall on his watch's lap, is seen as the cause of the power crisis, with drought threatening the output of Philippine hydroelectric plants.

2 gov't initiatives

Castillo yesterday said the election of the nephew-aide tandem should be viewed in the context of two key government initiatives and their relation to Congress' oversight function.

He pointed out that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. was planning to expedite this year the sale of 22 power plants by National Power Corp., on top of building out the 25-year franchise for National Transmission Corp.

The matter would naturally and eventually be the concern of the committee on energy headed by Mikey Arroyo, he said.

Castillo added that Iggy Arroyo would be placed in a similar situation because the government's plans for the ensuing service would be under the purview of his committee on natural resources.

"The Arroyo bloc has a mission: moving plans that will ensure the country's natural resources to the detriment of our fragile ecosystems," Castillo said in a statement.

"Can the President's son and brother-in-law effectively oversee the oversight functions of the committees they head over those multimillion-peso deals? And even if they did, will the public believe them if they are not biased? That is the problem," he said.

'Vote of confidence'

Reacting to speculation on his competence and claims that he was chosen committee chair by virtue of his being a son of the President, Mikey Arroyo said: "This is an affair of the majority. More than 180 congressmen voted unanimously for me, and I'm honored to head them well.

"The mere fact that they voted unanimously is a vote of confidence."

He said he was not one to brag, and was leaving it to other House members to talk about his credentials—such as his master's degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley in the House's Speaker Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, a senior member of the majority.

"It's not my style to tell people those things," he said in a phone interview.

The President's son said he was not claiming to be "an expert in [the] economics, who is obviously an expert he knows everything."

"I just hope [the minority] will respect the decisions of the majority," he said, adding that the latter did not interfere with matters "such as who their minority leader should be."

"I don't very sponsor [Castillo] being nominated by his party-list group," he said.

Eager beaver

As it is, the membership of the committee on energy has yet to be finalized but Mikey Arroyo is eager to conduct hearings to seek solutions to the power crisis.

"The looming crisis requires quick attention and it should be tackled first closely before it gets worse," he said.

He said he succeeded upon the House committee on rules chaired by Defensor if it would be possible for him to immediately conduct hearings, warning that the power and water shortage would have "cried chain effect if not mitigated immediately."

Mikey Arroyo said Speaker Jose de Venecia had included bills on power and water in the House priority agenda for the next 100 days.

"These include projected amendments to the Electric Cooperatives Indemnity Reform Act and other measures seeking to reduce power prices and push national productivity. This shows the House's commitment to address the concerns of the energy and power sectors," he said, adding:

"We hope the House leadership would prioritize the full organization of the energy committee so it can soon be mobilized in support of the national endeavor to find solutions to the power crisis.

"Every day my some areas reports about the adverse effects of the drought, like dates rending critical levels and town majors [sic] on supply in different areas."

Third-term Rep. Pompeyo Boga-oko, the former majority leader and now head of the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments, said the chairmanship of the committee on energy would "probably be named next week."

4 for minority

As the majority bloc continued to fill committee positions, minority lawmakers on Monday sought accommodation for at least four chairmanships.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez told the floor that the minority was interested in the committees on good government, on ethics, on peace and on human rights.

"Is it possible for the majority to break tradition?" Rodriguez said, referring to the standard procedure of having the administration bloc take first crack at strategic committee posts.

In response, Defensor told Rodriguez that his suggestion would be "seriously considered."

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE
ESSENTIALS FOR BOARD DIRECTORS

Sharpening Your Financial Literacy and Decision-Making for Better Business Performance

SEPTEMBER 26 | MANILA | MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES | 8:30AM to 5:00PM

For inquiries, call CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES
Tel. Nos. 842-71-46 or 59 Email: henry@cgbp.org Website: www.cgbp.org

HOME FAIR
SALE
up to 50% off
on great selections
AUG. 1-SEPT. 2, 2007

THE LANDMARK

Noli still tops in satisfaction ratings –SWS

PUBLIC SATISFACTION WITH VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro and other top government officials remains "steady," according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations.

But the Second Quarter 2007 Social Weather Survey also found improvement in the net ratings of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

De Castro scored a net rating of +20, with 52 percent saying they were satisfied and 27 percent saying they were dissatisfied with his performance.

The net rating is the difference between the percentages of satisfied and dissatisfied respondents.

Although down from +30 in February, De Castro's net satisfaction rating has been in the +20s for the last four quarters. His net rating has ranged from +19 to +40 over the past three years.

On the other hand, 60 percent said they were satisfied with Senate President Manuel Villar's performance, as against 16 percent who said they were dissatisfied, for a net rating of +51, recorded.

Reelected Senate chief at the opening of Congress on July 23, Villar has maintained his rating in the +50s the past two quarters, after recording net +39 and net +42 in his first two quarters as Senate President.

Public sentiment toward Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Reynato Puno, meanwhile, were "neutral" at net -1 and net +3, respectively.

Thirty-seven percent said they were satisfied with De Venecia's performance, as against 38 percent who were dissatisfied. His net rating this quarter was lower than February's +1.

De Venecia's net ratings were generally higher when he was Speaker during the Ramos administration (+19 to +40).

Puno, on the other hand, had 36 percent satisfied and 33 percent dissatisfied with his performance as Chief Justice. Public satisfaction with Puno has been "neutral" the last two quarters.

The survey also found 55 percent satisfied and 25 percent dissatisfied with the performance of the Senate, for a "fairly good" net rating of +30, recorded, while the House received a net +10, recorded (46 percent satisfied, 27 percent dissatisfied).

Public satisfaction with the Cabinet as a whole was "mixed" with a net rating of +1, while the Supreme Court received a "moderately good" net rating of +31.

The survey, conducted on June 27-30, used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults drawn from random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. *Aries Rufino, Inquirer Research*

Troops make their presence felt in Metro

By Christine O. Avendaño

ALOOF BUT JUNGLE-HIGHWAY TROOPS ARE making their presence felt in Metro Manila.

Fifteen military squads were deployed yesterday to 11 major depressed barangays in Manila, according to military officials.

The barangays are in the cities of Caloocan, Marikina, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (considered in Manila, local officials don't like to question the deployment of soldiers, officials said).

This was on top of the troops sent last month to six barangays in Quezon City, and three in Taguig City and AFP Silver Mantle commander Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino.

"The troops will exercise with their civil military activities there [and will] maintain with our information and awareness campaign against the communist movement," Dolorfino told reporters.

Col. Ricardo Visaya, chief of the Army's Civil Military Operations battalion, said the battalion sent to the squads, each with 10 to 12 soldiers, stay in the barangays for three to four months.

The plan was for the soldiers to remain in the barangays until the communities were "well aware of the disruptive communist by communist rebels," Visaya said.

He acknowledged that the communist New People's Army had stepped up its recruitment of members from the most opulent time for its "second offensive" against the government, adding this was what the military wanted to prevent.

'Imelda next gov't witness vs Lucio Tan'

From page A1

The cases being contested are a combined 63 percent of Tan's nine companies, which the PCGG seeks forfeited in favor of the state, the law firm statement said.

The PCGG, which is tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, said Bonghong was claiming the Tan companies for the Marcos family and not for the government.

Speaking to reporters yesterday afternoon, the younger Marcos kept his cards close to his chest, declining to answer most questions about his testimony at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City today.

He said, however, that his main intention in testifying for the government side in forfeiture case against Tan was to clear the name of his father and of his family.

"The discerning factor is whether what they're saying is true," he said, when asked about his motive for aligning himself with the PCGG.

The congressman was referring to allegations that his father amassed his wealth illegally, hiding some of them in dummy firms incorporated with the help of businessman Hao Tan. The late dictator was ousted in February 1986 by a popular revolt.

"They've been lying about what's been going on," the young Marcos said.

Fortune Tobacco, Asia Brewery

The statement listed nine companies covered by PCGG's claim—Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery Inc., Allied Banking Corp., Investcor Bytes, Himmel Industries Inc., Grandspan Development Corp., Allen-gate Holdings Inc., Basmission Realty and Construction Corp. and Shareholdings Inc.

But the PCGG listed 30 companies—Shareholdings Inc., Grandspan Development Corp., Himmel Industries Inc., Fortunet Online Inc., Shangan Holdings Inc., Asia Brewery Inc., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Stock Holdings Corp., Hotel Holdings Corp. and Supreme Holdings Inc.

The PCGG believes that these assets were part of former President Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

The government's stand is based mainly on an ex-parte declaration by the former first lady that her husband was the actual owner of 60 percent of the companies held in trust by Tan, his family and business associates.

Forbes Magazine estimates Tan's personal net worth at $1.5 billion, making him the richest man in the country.

Claim conveyed to Tan

Added: If he had already personally conveyed his family's claim to Tan's firms to the PCGG, Bonghong stated that he had done this "very subtly and a long time ago."

He has had no personal communication with Tan since then, he said.

The written statement issued by Marcos' lawyers yesterday tried to keep up the impression that the younger son of the late dictator with the law firm during the need to follow legal procedures.

"No one knows exactly what Congressman Marcos will testify on," the statement said.

Bonghong met with PCGG

"However, a meeting did take place between PCGG lawyers and Congressman Marcos at the law offices of Bitanol, Dehon, Reyes & Tan in Tytana Center in Pasig City at 2 p.m. yesterday," it said.

"Although no press release or give any information on what transpired during the meeting, it would be safe to assume that the purpose of the meeting was to prepare the young Marcos for his testimony," the statement said.

Contacted for his reaction, Tan's lawyer and designated spokesperson for the case, Lorelie Mendoza, declined to be interviewed.

Hostile witness

Renato A. Cossi, the PCGG commissioner in charge of the litigation, said the PCGG would present Bonghong as a hostile witness to block the Marcos family's claim on the companies.

SONGSONG MARCOS

IMELDA MARCOS

IRRE MARCOS

It's the intention of his heirs to clear the Marcos name

The Duke of Court defines a hostile witness as someone who has adverse interests to a claim, according to Cossi.

"It is expected that Bonghong Marcos will testify on his family's claim against the estate of Lucio Tan, which is consistent with the earlier assertion of his mother," Cossi said in a statement.

The PCGG yesterday sought the Sandiganbayan's reinvestment in getting the younger Marcos to attend the hearing today of Civil Case No. 0033 against him.

Accordingly, the court is set to compel Bonghong to produce and testify on certain piece of evidence pertaining to the Tan-owned companies.

Admission of guilt

In the Senate, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said the children of the country made by the children of the late dictator were an admission of his ill-gotten wealth.

Aquino, the son of martyred Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino, also questioned the PCGG for failing in its mandate to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

Since Marcos and Bonghong have claimed they have documents to prove their family's ownership of Tan's businesses and of GMA Network Inc., which launched an initial public offering in the middle of the last month. They, however, have yet to show their documents.

Not in SAL

Aquino said the assets that the Marcos heirs were claiming were never included in the statement of assets and liabilities (SAL) of the former first couple during their 20-year reign.

"They are admitting they have all this wealth, which you can easily compare with the SAL filed by the Marcos couple. If I recollect correctly, what they submitted before would not cover all of those assets, even as the time they were purchased," the neophyte senator said.

"And why were they held in trust by so many other people if they were theirs? That necessarily is a tacit admission that they wanted to hide the fact that they own, if indeed they own, this wealth," Aquino said. "I guess it is also at the very least the wealth is questionable," he said.

Going soft on Marcoses?

Aquino, a former three-term Subic congressman, said the PCGG should explain why it appears to be soft on going after the ill-gotten Marcos wealth.

He said during the term of the late PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, the PCGG scored landmark court victories in recovering cash, key assets and the seven Swiss deposits of the Marcoses.

"Now, it seems that we're losing a lot since the very least the wealth is questionable," he said.

Going soft on Marcoses?

Aquino, a former three-term Subic congressman, said the PCGG should explain why it appears to be soft on going after the ill-gotten Marcos wealth.

He said during the term of the late PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, the PCGG scored landmark court victories in recovering cash, key assets and the seven Swiss deposits of the Marcoses.

"Now, it seems that we're losing a lot since the very least the wealth is questionable," he said.

Dramatic reversal

"It shows a signal that there is a working relationship or a working between the current administration and the Marcoses as exemplified by Commissioner Abcede who was talking about compromise agreements?" asked Aquino.

"With the entry of that guy (Abcede) there seems to be a dramatic reversal of tone," he added.

Aquino said he was "frustrated" by the inconsistent administration's silence on the issue.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also dared the PCGG to stop the Marcoses from reclaiming the assets they own stated.

Pimentel, in a statement, said Marcos' activities during martial law, also supported a secret compromise deal between the Marcoses and the Arroyo administration.

He said he was outraged by reports that the Marcoses had already regained control over some of the assets originally sequestered by the PCGG.

He called for a Senate investigation of the launch of the new claims being made by the Marcoses. *With a report from Beverly T. Mendrigal*

Correction

IN THE JULY 28 ISSUE, an article on Page A5—"Cabral defends ban on juvenile offenders"—misspelled the surname of the director of Metro Manila's Northern Police District. The NPD director is Chief Supt. Pedro Bingag—not Dingag.

Readers may send their requests for corrections, or factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pet Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makapilis Street, Makati City, fax this 403-2142 (24 x-mail address: inq@inq.com.ph).

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Letty Jimena, Readers' Representative, Philippine Daily Inquirer, e-mail address: ljimena@inq.com.ph or fax No. 403-2142. Also, Inquirer's ombudsman, Joe Pilapil, can be reached at 897-8809 local 760.

Ngayon, mas masarap nang mag videoke!

ziller REALSOUND PORTABLE BOX VIDEOKE

Power-driven by MP3 sound Technology

Now Available! OPM Hits Vol.1

• Sing with back-up singers
• 277 built-in OPM Songs
• 1,273 built-in ENGLISH Songs
• Personalize your picture background (memory pack required)

with SD HeadSound™

Department of Agriculture

In cooperation with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector

"Kasaganaang Abot Kaya"

Bagsakan Center

Makakabili kayo sa murang halaga ng mga produktong bukid

LIST OF BAGSAKAN CENTERS

- Marikina City – Marikina Market Zone (Sto. Elena, Marikina City)
- Muntinlupa City – Muntinlupa City Public Market (Alabang, Muntinlupa)
- QuezonCity – Commonwealth (Brgy Commonwealth, Q.C.)
  Mega Q-Mart (EDSA, Brgy. E. Rodriguez, Cubao)
  Del Monte-Kamuning (Mayon cor., Bonifacio Ave.)
  Central Terminal Market (EDSA Quezon City)
- Pasig – Mutya ng Pasig (Market Ave., Camansha Complex)
- Valenzuela – KADIWA Center (McArthur Highway, Valenzuela)

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, tumawag sa:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Tel. no.: 920-4073; 920-4072
Makipag-ugnayan kina: Assoc. Comm. or Lety
Email: frmmo@da.gov.ph
kmki_pki@yahoo.com

Para sa mungkahing pagbabago sa mga nakalistang lugar, mangyaring tumawag sa mga numero sa itaas.

CHEd chair accepts fate

DESPITE MAKING COMMENTS WHICH indicated a reluctance to leave, Commissioner Rizalino Linsangan on Higher Education (CHEd) chair Carlito Puno said he had accepted his fate and he was not about to contract in government work anymore.

Puno said in a phone interview yesterday that he did not want to be where he is not wanted. "Ayoko nang sa gobyerno. Nirespeto na nila eh, hahd pa ako tinhohold? Kung ayaw na nila sa akin (I don't want to work in government as the measure. They took away my job, why should I retain it? If they don't want me?), bahala na."

Also for lessons, CHEd's copy pens, Puno said he would "join the ranks of the unemployed."

In an earlier interview, Puno said he was not keen on accepting another government post amid offer from Malacañang to head a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC).

While Malacañang has not talked with him since news of Neri's takeover at CHEd, Puno said he would remain firm in his position to turn down any offer of appointment post outside of CHEd.

"It is the President's prerogative to replace me at CHEd. Now let me exercise my prerogative not to accept (her) offer," he said.

He clarified that he was not questioning Neri's credentials to head the CHEd portfolio.

This issue, Puno said, was raised by the presidents of the state colleges and universities, and some of the staff members at CHEd.

He added that it was not within his purview to question the qualifications of Neri because it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who had chosen Neri.

Puno said he was leaving CHEd confident that he had done his job well during his term.

"If I leave CHEd, I leave it as an office which you can be proud of. If I leave it now, I know I have accomplished what I set out to do there. CHEd is something that you can be proud of now," he said. Beverly T. Ra'Ve'lasi

Apology

We, ALLAN JOSEPH A. REYES, the Board of Directors and Officers of MAGCO INCORPORATED, hereby apologize to HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. of Japan and HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC. for selling general purpose engines and for distributing copies of the Owner's Manual of said general purpose engines which turned out to be imitations or unauthorized copies of the genuine Honda general purpose engines. We admit that our acts may be in contravention of the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293) and an infringement of the trademark "HONDA" as well as the copyright of HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD., on its Owner's Manual, and the designs of its GX series general purpose engines.

Magco Engine

3D HONDA Trademark

Upon receipt of HONDA's first notice, we immediately stopped our sale of the said engines and distribution of said manuals.

We acknowledge the ownership of HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. of the trademark HONDA and its 3D general purpose engine trademark and will continue to respect the intellectual property rights of HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. of Japan and HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC.

ALLAN JOSEPH A. REYES
& MAGCO INCORPORATED
Parañaque City

Mt. Bulusan erupts: 'Beautiful but scary'

From page A1

...throwing ash on villages as far as 8 km away.

The 9:37 a.m. blast of Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon—which has been restive for 16 months—hobbled clouds of ash towering 3 km like a giant mushroom, which gave residents both a fright and an awesome spectacle.

No casualties were reported. Some residents reported the sun was dim with their cell phone cameras.

"It was as if a very huge bomb exploded followed by a sudden shaking of the earth," was how villagers in Barangay Tinalmo, 18 km in Juban town described Bulusan's biggest explosion since it first showed signs of renewed restlessness in March 2006.

The explosion lasted about 20 minutes, said Bella Febrianna, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said the explosion would not cause the institute to upgrade the current Alert Level 1 status hoisted around the vol. cano.

The 4.5km permanent danger zone around Bulusan is still in effect, he added.

Solidum urged residents to stay away from river channels and gullies if heavy rains occur, particularly on the western side, and trigger mudflows.

He said yesterday's eruption was basically an "ash explosion event," in case of a hazardous event, pyroclasts materials—like rocks and boulders—would be tumbling down the slopes, he said.

"We haven't seen the signal that would indicate movement of a large volume of magma, or movement of magma toward the surface. There's no such thing yet," Solidum added.

Ash drifted in the west-southwest and west-northwest direction, affecting the villages of Bogtong, Cadong-Dotong, Bolos, Macabog and Tinalmo in Irosin and Pangpang, Salvacion and Bonbonon in Juban, a Phivolcs bulletin said.

The 1,560-metre mountain is the fourth most active of the country's 22 active volcanoes. The three other most active volcanoes are Mayon in Albay, Taal in Batangas and Bamban in Negros Island.

Erupted 18 times

Bulusan has erupted at least 18 times since 1852.

An explosion by Bulusan on March 15, 2006, sent up an ash column to a height of 1.5 km. Residents in Juban and Irosin with sensitive skin and throats developed rashes.

Lee assured the residents of help from the provincial government should the municipal industries run out of supplies.

Juban Mayor Ruel Ciudadano suggested there was too much clamor for the ashfall was minimal. Fireworks sounded like ash fell the national highway.

Deputy Director Esperanza Jean Lirio Dig-Uno advised school principals in the affected areas to suspend classes in the elementary and secondary levels.

Provincial action officer Noel Pura said the authorities were still monitoring reports from the towns of Magallanon, Castilla, Pilar and Donsol.

In a statement, the mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI) says a 14-man team is Sorsogon to help provincial authorities address the needs of residents.

It said the team had brought with it gas masks, face towels and drinking water for distribution to the residents, as well as a water purifier.

NPA declares ceasefire

The Cebu Mingaan Command of the New People's Army in Sorsogon declared a unilateral ceasefire to give way to relief operations.

The ceasefire covers a 11-km radius around the volcano and will last until relief and rehabilitation efforts are completed, said rebel spokesperson Samuel Cabreros.

The military and the police, as well as the Philippine National Oil Company-Bai Man Geothermal Production Field Office, mobilized personnel for relief operations.

Ring of Fire

Since the volcano last ejected ash in May, Bulusan's northeastern slope has swelled slightly and abnormally high numbers of earthquakes have been recorded, according to Phivolcs.

The Philippine archipelago lies on the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

In December last year, typhoon-triggered mudslides along the slopes of Mayon buried entire villages, killing more than 1,000 people.

The earliest recorded eruption of Bulusan occurred in 1652. This was followed by periods of eruptive activity in 1886, then 1892, and in 1894.

Another 23 years elapsed before Bulusan again turned restive. With reports from Cyril J. Benedicto, Inquirer Research and AP

PANORAMIC VIEW: Residents living near the pier in Sorsogon City watch as ash clouds rise as high as 3 kilometers (top Photo) from the crater of Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon during a sudden eruption. WILLY CUBELO/PHILIPPINE STAR

Salonga wins Magsaysay Award

From page A1

president of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, said in a statement yesterday.

Legal scholar

After topping the bar examinations in 1944, Salonga established himself as an influential legal scholar and educator. A veteran lawmaker, he was elected to the Senate thrice. He is known as a staunch nationalist and a champion for clean government and public education.

Salonga's prominence in exposing the atrocities of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos earned for him the title, "Nation's Paralitico," according to the Philippines Free Press.

He was crippled by a bomb blast at a Plaza Miranda rally in 1971, a year before Marcos declared martial law. As fought Marcos' iron-fisted rule by defending the President's opponents, investigating the release of political prisoners and was the lawyer of Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Salonga was briefly jailed in 1980 and spent four years in US exile. He returned a year before Marcos was ousted in a People Power revolt and put his personal ambitions aside to back Corazon Aquino, the pro-democracy icon who succeeded Marcos.

Moral authority

As the first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Salonga took over the government's legal efforts to reclaim wealth allegedly stolen by the Marcoses. He was also the first post-Edsa I Senate President and, in 1995, he led his colleagues in rejecting the American military bases from the Philippines. He also authored laws to protect the water, being a banker and military cooper.

"[The Gods of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees] was one thing I authored. There's a more important bill I authored and that was the Anti-Plunder Law for which President Joseph Estrada is being tried. I also authored the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act," Salonga told the Inquirer.

Other awardees

"His unwavering and lasting values have a simple fact: its practice must be preached," the Magsaysay foundation said.

Chang Yi, 40, and Chen Guangbiao, 36, of China won the emergent leadership awards.

Chang is the Hong Kong-born founder of the Chi Heng Foundation which worked to curb the spread of SARS-2002 and raise the stigma of those infected with the virus.

Chen, who, despite being blind since infancy, became a "barefoot lawyer" providing legal aid for the poor and disadvantaged. He rode to publicizing a rubber population control programme in Shandong province, involving coerced abortions and involuntary sterilizations, led to his conviction for allegedly obstructing traffic order. He is now serving a four-year prison term.

Tang Siyang, 77, one of the leaders of the environmental movement in China, received the peace and international understanding award for guiding his country to meet its mounting environmental crisis.

Journalism, public service

Palagummi Sainath, 50, of India won the journalism, literature and creative communication arts award. He was cited for his reporting on vital social issues in India focusing on the plight of the rural poor, a sector ignored by media of India's prosperity.

The Pyu Kim Sun Foe, 66, from South Korea, is being honored for public service for devoting himself to a hospital dedicated to treating and curing blindness. Blinded by a motorbike accident, the Korean Yim, he seventeen poverty and disability to found the Silcom Eye Hospital in 1988, an institution for treating blindness and training the blind.

Mahadev Pun, 52, born in the Himalayan foothills of western Nepal, won a scholarship to the University of Sebastian but returned home after 20 years to help set up a village high school.

He received the community leadership award for his innovative application of television computer technology that brought programs to remote mountain areas.

The Ramon Magsaysay award is named after the Filipino President who died in a 1957 plane crash. This year's winners will be honored on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines where they will receive a medallion, a certificate and a cash prize. Reports from Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research, Norman Bordadora, AP and AFP

26 OFW kids repatriated

LAGUNA PROPER documents to enable 26 OFW kids to go to school in the United Arab Emirates were sent home. The children of Filipino workers in Kuwait were repatriated yesterday.

Police Senior Supt. Rosalio Ata said the children of school age, the children arrived at the NAIA Ninoy Aquino International Airport and were met by their parents or relatives, many of whom had come home ahead.

The Philippine embassy in Kuwait had asked other returning Filipinos to look after the children during the 11-hour flight home.

Among those was Kuwait-born Michelle Gallega, 7, who went home with her grandmother Thelma del Rosario.

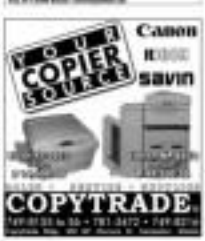
Applying for Kuwaiti citizenship for Michelle would be too long and costly a process, said Del Rosario. The child's mother Nora, a cashier, and father Danny, an employee in a company in Kuwait, believed it is best for their daughter to grow up in Kuwait where they have been working for the past 14 years.

"She will be studying here. She will be raised by an aunt in their native Iloilo," said Del Rosario, a domestic helper in Kuwait who comes home every year. Michelle's older sister Myla, born in Kuwait 9 years ago, was sent back earlier.

Rosie de la Cruz, a waitress in Kuwait, missed the arrival scene with three children in tow. She said she was waiting to board her flight home with husband Ronnie and 2-year-old son Gino. She added when she was asked by Philippine Embassy officials to look after the three undocumented children.

"They asked me to look after them during the flight. I was told that their documents were already waiting here. It's OK ... I pity them," said de la Cruz.

Sarwa Quinsumondo



Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting interested parties to submit separate proposals for the disposition of the two projects described below thru outright sale on 'as is' or by property, plant methods, or other similar or variant schemes:

Phase I			Phase I		
Phase II			Phase II		
Phase III			Phase III		
Total			Total		

The submission of bidding activities are as follows:

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

The bidders are advised to inspect the properties to determine their actual conditions. Particulars of the bidding including the bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured at Unit 4F Peak Building, 105 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND Pesos (P 25,000.00). No walk-in bidder from August 6 to 10, 2007. For further inquiries, please call Ms. Marivic Batalla or Ms. Norma Maloloy of the HGC at tel. nos. 897-3355/ 897-3356 or visit our office at Peak Building, 105 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) ESMAEN G. SAMPAL
Chairperson
Asset Disposition Committee

PHILIPPINE DA

Big-time graft on the rise, says watchdog

From page A1

data at the country's public sector, helped early this year by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) to assess the corruption problem in the public sector, the Transparency Seal got an average score of nine. To the PERC grading system, zero is the best possible score and 10 the worst.

A survey conducted by Social Weather Stations from March 4 to May 13 also revealed that the scale of corruption in the government remained high.

Lazatin cited it was becoming more difficult for watchdog groups to get reliable data from public sector documents in the Arroyo administration.

"It's much, much harder. I think there is a decrease in transparency and good governance," Lazatin said in an interview at the DAP presentation.

Impediments in the Arroyo administration have been sting shoos refusing documents and information of public interest, he said.

Contracts with Japan, China

Lazatin cited the government's refusal to disclose the documents and papers on the controversial Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement and the more than $330-million broadband contract between the Philippine government and the Chinese telecommunication firm, ZTE Corp.

It's also harder to obtain documents of taxes, liabilities and tax awards ($6.2M) of government officials and politicians, and some agencies have resorted to dilatory techniques, Lazatin said.

Lazatin's group has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to estimate the losses of Commission on Elections Chief Benjamin Abalos II for the agency will have to answer on the request despite several calls, he said.

Lazatin said Romero said the atmosphere of confidentiality was breeding bigger types of corruption, such as kickbacks, padded and overpriced.

All the sensitive jobs, high-level government officials must themselves to hand wealth from the public coffers and undermine efforts at the bureaucratic level to eradicate corruption, Lazatin said.

'Mother of all corruption'

Romero noted that the May elections also contributed to the rise of the most lucrative corruption practices.

"Elections are the mother of all corruption. You have guns, goons and gold. And Public Gov't," Romero said, the last referring to the super administration between the Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garillo's supposedly to rig the 2004 presidential election.

The studies presented in the first batch of the DAP seminar-workshops centre focused on the "pinches" in the system.

These problems may be small and "individual," but if accumulated over time, these little things contribute to tremendous losses for the government, officials said.

Romero said the 12 studies on various fields made by the six teams...all career officials in seven agencies—would be implemented in their respective departments.

In a study by Edwin Cabiya, a team revealed that the Department of Public Works and Highways was losing millions of pesos on tax refunds for foreign-funded infrastructure projects.

High-end vehicles

Because foreign-funded works are exempt from the cap set by the Department of Budget and Management and there is no clear documentation guidelines on car rentals, it has become a practice in the DPWH to rent high-end vehicles instead of the cheaper and more appropriate pickup trucks for conservation projects, Cabiya said.

"Elimination of corruption red tape utilities even in the smallest activities should be addressed and not taken for granted because those small areas, with their lines of transactions, can make a big difference and/or create a great impact," Cabiya said.

Bureau of Customs

Another study at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) demanded changes in the control procedures and inventory of seizable items.

Marisol Nario, the BOC employee who made the study, noted that such items were overlooked and that there were "significant weaknesses" in the organization, inventorying and monitoring of the items, which are collected by the BOC's financial institutions.

As a result, there is "wastage and inefficient use of government funds."

The lack of controls can also lead to the unauthorized use of the items, Nario said.

High performers share tips on managing hard-earned bucks

For most people, a job is just a means of earning a living. But to some high achievers, a job means so much more – personal and professional growth and continuous learning, satisfaction and fulfillment. Experts, what Accenture, one of the leading global management consulting, technology services, and outsourcing companies, strives to provide its employees. Driven by a culture of excellence and a commitment to "high performance," Accenture makes sure the relationship is mutually satisfying for both the organization and its people.

"A career at Accenture should be satisfying as well as rewarding. Part of the satisfaction comes from doing top-quality, interesting and challenging work, and the opportunity to grow and develop as a professional. In addition, we offer competitive monetary reward packages based on employees' skills and level of responsibility," explained Dot Velasco, Country Human Resources Lead of Accenture in the Philippines.

Every year, Accenture conducts a market benchmarking study to understand trends, and reviews global developments to design a suitable Total Rewards Strategy for its employees.

"The Total Rewards Strategy, being highly market-competitive, enables us to attract, retain and motivate the best people," Velasco added. While rewards are performance driven, that is, measuring success through the achievement of business outcomes, compensation is delivered through a combination of base pay, variable pay and equity components, she added.

Finding fulfillment in belonging to a company that truly values its people, having a dynamic and stimulating job, and getting justly rewarded for hard work and achievement, Accenture employees also make sure that every part of their salary counts for something. A closer look at how Accenture's employees manage their hard-earned money clearly shows that high performance extends to their personal life, including the wise management of their finances.

"Being a high performer should manifest all work, at play and even in life's basics," volunteered Darwin Soriano, Delivery Lead for Travel & Transportation projects under Accenture Systems Integration & Technology. As any breadwinner or family member who contributes to the household budget knows, one's salary is usually eaten up by expenses for rent or property amortization, utilities, the kids' education, and other basic necessities.

While the children's education and home mortgage payments are top priorities for a family man like Darwin, single and successful Diana Cruz spends differently. Diana, a project manager for Accenture's contact center operations in Manila, who's been with Accenture for three years, spends regularly for telephone usage, clothes, travel, dance classes, other recreational activities, and "groceries" with friends. Extravagant? Not quite. Mindful of the rainy days, Diana manages to save approximately 10% of her salary each month. "I have a financial goal that I try to meet every year. It's realize that I am spending more in one or two areas, I become more conscious and lessen my spending."

Let's hear more from these money-

continued on A 11

Accenture

Delivering high performance in the Philippines and around the world.

Accenture is one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies, committed to delivering innovation that helps clients become high-performance businesses. With over 150,000 people in 48 countries, few organizations are able to match our industry knowledge and process expertise, our global resources or our proven track record. That's probably why we've worked with over two thirds of the FORTUNE® Global 500.

In the Philippines we have over 12,000 professionals in the Manila Delivery Centre and operate in Makati City, Pasig City, Quezon City, Mandaluyong City and soon in Cebu City. Leveraging their skills from these locations, we deliver technology solutions and outsourcing services to clients across a diverse range of industries in Europe, Asia and North America. This gives our employees the opportunity to do interesting work, develop new skills and work on leading edge technologies and business processes.

In an innovative and collaborative team environment which nurtures talent, encourages training, provides career growth and rewards accomplishments, our people in the Philippines focus on the delivery of transformational solutions—helping clients realize their vision and achieve high performance.

Miriam: Reyes unfit for energy post

By Cid C. Cabanangan Jr.

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO yesterday said she would make a "personal" appeal to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure that appointments of Angelo Reyes as secretary of energy because the former general was ill-equipped to manage the highly technical portfolio.

In an interview, Defensor said she would take up the matter with the President in a dinner with cabinet members today.

Defensor said the President might be having a hard time "looking for the right persons" for her Cabinet.

"Those who are knowledgeable have resigned because they say they could not fight the system single handedly, there were just too many aberrations or he finds that they didn't want to tread their fingers by making an issue of their offices. That's why they all quit," she said.

Defensor, who has declared her intention to run in 2010 as president, said she would not be a "personal" appeal to President

INQUIRER

OPINION

Slim pickings

EDITORIAL

LIKE DISLODGED CLUMPS OF ARTERIAL PLAQUE, President Macapagal-Arroyo's son and brother-in-law, drifting along the currents of politics, have lodged themselves in the chairmanships of two significant committees. Where they've lodged, they're now poised to act, as arterial plaque does in terms of the circulation of blood, as a menace of restricting the flow of legislation concerning natural resources and energy.

In having the President's son and brother-in-law in such prominent, gate-keeping positions in the House of Representatives the core of signal she wants to send? As she proclaims herself in "legacy" mode, does she view her legacy as a kind of hardening of the political arteries? In a word, is this, in the phrase immortalized by the President in her recent State of the Nation Address, the "good kind of cholesterol"?

When Hillary Arroyo was given the chairmanship of the House committee on energy, Pandakaw Rep. Eduardo Zialcita stated down criticism by citing the young Arroyo's master's degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley. Zialcita also said, "There are those who say that he's not qualified but one doesn't have to be an expert in the power industry to know the issue confronting the sector. At chair of the committee one only has to listen and build a consensus on which solutions to adopt."

But, of course, he could simply have told the truth (which is not to say he lied, in terms of defending the younger Arroyo; rather, it was a Chesterbilian "oversimplified persuasion"). The ultimate adviser of fitness for any committee chairmanship is party affiliation; second to that is perceived usefulness either to the House leadership, or the national leadership, specifically whoever happens to be president of the Philippines at the time. Expertise in the committee's scope of legislation comes an expendable third in the House's hierarchy of values.

The younger Arroyo's chairmanship, and the older Arroyo's designation as chair of the committee on natural resources, make perfect sense then in terms of pragmatic politics. The President proclaimed her administration as having a keen interest in energy and mining; her much-ballyhooed Cabinet revamp ended up a reshuffle, with two officials moving sideways—Angelo Reyes from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Department of Energy, and Lukas (software) Heherson Alvarez named mining czar—and a Cabinet portfolio serving as political reward to Lito Atienza, who eased a path and reaped stewardship of the environment as the President's thanks.

If the President's vision, then, is limited to political recycling, then it shouldn't be surprising that that chamber of Congress, which is always eager to take its cue from the executive, would demonstrate an equivalent narrowness of vision. That the talent and genie pools are as obviously limited are neither here nor there for the powers-that-be. It's not what you know, after all, but rather, who you know. And who knows the President best than her son and brother-in-law?

When the Soviet dictator Josef Stalin famously sneered, "How many divisions has the Pope?" he might as well have been a Filipino congressman. To be sure, there is opposition to the designation of the two Arroyos. But how many votes do they have? The environmentalists and consumers who have questioned the Reyes, Alvarez and Atienza appointments may make noise, but it has to be asked whether such noises can offset the skewed political calculations the President constantly makes. The party-list representatives questioning the House's decision, too, represent the wrong constituency.

There is no raising vote and no environmentalist vote, no constituency locally like there are interests that are comfortable with dealing with the House and national leadership on these issues. They, too, would see the obvious political benefits in having the President's family serve as gatekeepers in the House, for legislation required to achieve the President's priorities.

In H.L. Mencken's view, "Democracy is the theory that holds that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard." The controversy is certainly getting it good and hard, courtesy of the House of Representatives.

Publisher **SIGRID TORRES**
Editor-in-Chief **LETTY JANE P. FRANCISCO**
Managing Editor **JOSE NIC D. SOLIMAN**
Associate Editors **ARMANDO L. DOROMAL**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
News Editor **ANTHONY T. DONESAN JR.** • Chief, News Desk **NOEL B. TALISAY**
Opinion Editor **JOSEFA V. ARAULA**
National Editor **FERDINAND E. BANZON JR.**
Senior Lead Editor **JAMES SAMBRANO JR.**
Editor at Consultant **ANTONIO DUMPALAS**
Chief Photographer **EDGAR G. GARGANTOS**
Art & Design Director **LYNDA S. VILLANUEVA**

Board Chairman **HERMAS E. PEREZ**
President **ALEXANDRA PEREZ-HOSKYNS**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **EDGARD E. ESPIRITU**
Vice President for Advertising **FELIX R. ELARCE**
Vice President for Finance **LEONOR TERESA R. LIM**

Readers' Advocate **LEONOR KALAW TENG**

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The soap opera that is PNCC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF YOU HAVE BEEN READING NEWSPAPERS, you are probably familiar with the saga of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC). It is like a soap opera full of intrigues and twists and turns.

One of the latest twists is the imposition of bail on the railways which, to my mind, is a case of attempted suicide and a disservice to Malacañang. Supposing as it did not know of government efforts to save the continuing public's financial burden by slashing rail lines, one of the very few laudable moves of an incumbent transportation secretary.

PNCC officials are rubbing with a slew of debtors, I hear, and sitting down with other government agencies to untangle the Gordian knot of long-standing financial woes. They didn't get the franchise cancelled, of course, due to the wisdom of then Solicitor Frederick Orillos and Sergio Osmeña. The changes of management were understandable. Industry has stated the PNCC a paragon of efficiency. What seemed curious was the rising up of a storm that was already being stilled in the courts. At the time of their eavesdropping, the Supreme Court was hearing the petition for a compromise agreement between the PNCC and bankers' creditors (ed. The dynamic duo eventually crushed the franchise, 8-6).

That compromise agreement was subsequently approved—final and nonappealable—by the Court of Appeals after the Supreme Court, on the bail twice granted the application of the Commission on Audit to intervene. But it took the Court of Appeals for a final decision, although none as stated from some vested-paid antagonists to anonymous parties in the newspapers, there is some last gasp, a final effort being made to knock it to the Supreme Court.

The 59-billion compromise agreement represents a deal of the enormous P11 billion debt the PNCC owes Sudecor, which bought the incumbent of a financial Murchison in 2004. It also includes the value of the property and, yes, part of future proceeds from the PNCC's share in the South Expressway fees and, since stakeholder issues are finally resolved, shares in the corporation, enough to make Sudecor a powerful minority partner.

The Court of Appeals has approved the compromise agreement. The Court of Appeals ruling stated that the many arguments raised by others, including Orillos and Osmeña, had already been resolved in the supreme final court. The PNCC, of course, had challenged that SEC ruling in the Court of Appeals and in the Supreme Court and asked for a halt to an appeal it had initiated. Both times, it lost.

The Court struck down the claim of grave abuse of discretion by the SEC judge. It also lifted the attachments on PNCC properties, saying it had always an effect to severely cripple their ability to render debt payments. This was above the only minor victory for the PNCC, it certainly could not tell the same at sea. It had lost almost every argument. It then threw in the towel and agreed to talks of settlement.

The compromise settlement has been upheld by the Court of Appeals. On a scoreboard, that would be something like 6-0. Anti-intervention and penalties piling up every step of the way.

Of the many, many, many ironies in the PNCC's farce followed the case through every wave of legal wrangling. What is not clear, but will loom just behind the statement statements, it appears instead of an opposer passionately interested in the Court of Appeals, another opposer making the rounds, some parties lurking behind closed doors. And yes, someone else getting wining—on behalf of still another opposer.

The names in the unwavering shady deals, of course, for I can throw no stones, positioned one stock in the same line.

* * *

Recently, I wrote in this column about allegations of misuse of political power by the son and namesake of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to snatch away a government contract for a broadband network already awarded to a Chinese company. It specifically cited P 130 ($2.5) to this friendly rural telecom co-for-40 donor allegations.

"It's all politics," wrote lawyer Mariteche Sison, spokesperson for former Sen. Robbie Jaworski, the company that (RV II) put up to bid for the broadband project of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

The letter is all genius for (RV II), and it's all undoubtedly over (the contract has been awarded to ZTE Corp.), but let's see some of it in fairness to him.

Rather than being a mom-and-pop operation, O'Sullivan said, ACR has the financial and technical backing of Hong Kong Technologies Inc., China's largest and the world's second-largest telecommunication company. If ACR had won the contract, Huawei would be financing the project through a commercial loan that the Chinese telecom giant and ACR would assume, meaning the government will get its multibillion-peso broadband network for free. Decide other hand, the ZTE contract that the DOTC signed last April would require the P 8-billion loan from the Chinese government that the Philippines will have to pay over a 20-year period.

O'Sullivan quoted international media reports claiming ZTE as a "corporate leader" of Huawei (saying unjustly to catch up with its big brother, whose real name rival for domination of the world telecom supply business for several years now to giant Cisco Systems Inc. of the United States.

Per Business Day (BW II) is willing to close any congressional investigation to expose the legal and moral mistakes of the DOTC in signing the ZTE deal.

We have not had such a scandal before where somebody related to then Speaker, an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, would be testifying before a Senate dominated by political opponents of the administration. It should be worth watching when it happens.

Wrong math

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MAJORITY JUSTICE ENCIAN PANGANIBAN HAS recently rejected Antonio Trillanes' (and the Senate's) petition to allow him to return to his duties as senator in the Senate. I've discussed the following reasons.

One, Trillanes II, million votes are unweighted by the prosecution's 40 million citizens of this country. Two, the Senate's decision to "proclaim" and Trillanes' swearing in are the other courts' decisions allowing Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to run for office despite their having been convicted of plunder and other crimes. Three, Trillanes' case in fact is not the Senate's or Miriam's, it is the Senate Judges'.

All three points are the sum of the prosecution's brief.

Frankly, I don't know how Panganiban became a judge. I don't certainly see him as one. I see him as the mother in the sun applet and oranges, as indeed Initiation—he can't judge the difference. Trillanes' and Estrada' cases are the same because Panganiban probably had in mind the Senate's decision to allow Senator Roberto Ongpin, who showed this last month while being grilled by senators about his attempt to sell Philippine money in the US Congress and being reduced to speechlessness in the process. The Senate failed to exercise its oversight function in preventing him from further money by going high blood pressure. That's the same function Panganiban is using.

Then, the court. I've never ceased to be amazed by this idiocy that says that an elected official's constituency consists only of the people who voted for him. The Supreme Court in the world, this idea has been installed around over the years even by political pundits. Large hearing that way back in Viral Summer time when people kept insisting that the problem with the multiparty system is that, unlike the two party one, such as we had before martial law, presidents are not elected by the majority of voters, they are elected only by a majority of voters, their votes only being a plurality over the others.

Seemingly logical, that. It is in fact insane nonsense. In a democracy, all is taken as law "to" is not majority of votes plus one over one's nearest rival. In a democracy, once one is elected by that means, he is empowered as representative of the people and not just the ones who voted for him. That is such egregious nonsense it's over time which are true. We cannot say when your group has decided to buy police instead of land students that the decision does not bind you. All we can do is refuse to vote for them. The same for an elected official represents only the people who voted for him is not democracy, it is stupidity. Unfortunately, it is also the Filipino way. Look at the number of organizations that have fallen apart because the people who lost an election went on to found their own organizations. But that's another story.

The point simply is: Trillanes is an elected senator. He does not represent 11 million voters, he represents 40 million Filipinos. He represents every citizen of this country, voter or non-voter, man or woman, young or old, as much as does Judge Pimentel's favorite senators, who unfortunately currently do not include his namesake, Koko. The opposite is not true. Trillanes' opponents only 11 million Filipinos and the justice department 40 million. The argument is that 700 have represent 80 million Filipinos and the justice department, especially with Raul Gonzalez in the helm, only the number of inmates in the Muntinlupa mental hospital. At that, many of the inmates will be fit to be out presenting their indictees.

Indeed, you go further on the equation in Trillanes' favor. It's million Filipinos. Gonzalez's boss signed one Arroyo.

The only premise being brought to Pimentel's turn by Trillanes using the issues of loop and bilateral is the primacy of logic and reason. The law is clear. Or rather, various and so it is not clear at all. It either applies to all or it applies to no one. Why shouldn't the same things that apply to Loop and Bilateral apply to Trillanes? Or indeed, why shouldn't the same things that apply to Congressman Joker Arroyo apply to Trillanes? Why shouldn't the same things that apply to Congressman Jose, apply to Trillanes?

Panganiban may not know it (which is probably why he is a judge in EDSA-created), but there is something in law called "precedent." Lawyers quote it to debase their theirs but here's a thing by other courts or the entire case, and a judge would be well advised to heed it. As far as I know, neither in the United States nor in Timbuktu, neither here nor there, has there been a case where a person appealing another person's case is all very well to be independent—though one must wonder as the independence of a court that swallows hook, line and sinker a prosecution's arguments—but it is not all very well to be insolent, which is what Panganiban is.

It's Judges' law that is really much of the case law? Well, Judges is in jail for raping a minor. Trillanes is in jail for attempting to overturn a magistrate's duly elected government. Now I'm not saying that the latter is more serious than the former, but I am saying that the latter is more serious than the former. It's small right, even in the darkest days of martial law, for judges to commit political prisoners from common criminals. It would be worse, which was martial law doing so. Common criminals committed common crimes and had no business political prisoners committed nonviolent and perfectly acceptable—crimes out of white noses. Political prisoners deserved respect, common criminals only spite. Political prisoners deserved all the deference a democratic regime need could spare, common criminals deserved all the revulsion a democratic society itself could break.

That's not even bring up to democracy itself, the supreme issue.

But there other ways this country's justice system is!

Neri's heresy

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE DEPT. OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AS ECONOMIC planning secretary were numbered the moments he publicly questioned a) that the government's ability to achieve a 6.2 percent growth next year) unless it spends an additional P20 billion for pump-priming the ambitious infrastructure program and instead of transforming the Philippines into a Fitch World economy in 20 years, its relevance to the general public dangs, could be [illegible].

This assessment, coming from the government's chief economist, was anathema to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who on June 1, during a state visit to Australia, boasted: "The Philippines is not a risk. This is the fastest pace in almost two decades. At 5 percent growth in services, 3.3 percent in industry, 4.3 percent in agriculture." That was the gospel, but the following days, Neri consistent the unpardonable heresy of contradicting the official line.

Neri's assessment ran Arroyo's exuberance to cover, thrown opinions inside her Cabinet and her circle of friends and leaving behind class income in love of feral family income lower above economic affairs than she. Neri's designation was not unexpected. It was only a matter of time. Practitioners using the Philippine economy to show up as a bubble the President's vision, spelled out in the State of the Nation Address last July 23, of hosting a massive infrastructure development program as the "principal legacy" of her presidency.

In the Cabinet meeting held, "we have been investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. The next three years will see record levels of anti-dangle cut and government funding for government projects." Barely a week later, Neri was "unexpectedly" relieved of his duties, ostensibly in the spirit of being team-of-the-team, going Cabinet subtitle. Neri was shifted to the Commission on Higher Education, a position whose functions are far removed from his special, technocrat expertise. The shift underscored Neri's

pronounced role from the Cabinet.

Neri's relief, on the same time, underscored the problem of Malacañang to shuffle Cabinet members into their slots that they are ill-suited to fill—square pegs in the round hole, as the cliché would explain.

The offending statement of Neri last May was only hit the mark and generated the bubble. He said that with the revenue shortfall in the past months and the government's commitment to achieve a balanced budget by next year, it might not be possible to raise additional revenues for pump priming and it would be unrealistic to aim for a higher growth rate next year—like the 7 percent, targeted by more optimistic government economists who are inclined to forecast growth the President would like to happen next year.

Neri places his bet on a 6.1 percent growth. "If we don't have the revenue constraints, it would have been easier to achieve a 6.2 percent growth. From the 6.1 percent (additional growth), we only need about P20 billion in additional spending." This could be money, actually, "we have been investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. The next three years will see record levels of anti-dangle cut and government funding for government projects." Barely a week later, Neri was "unexpectedly" relieved of his duties, ostensibly in the spirit of being team-of-the-team, going Cabinet subtitle. Neri was shifted to the Commission on Higher Education, a position whose functions are far removed from his special, technocrat expertise. The shift underscored Neri's

The offending statement of Neri last May was only hit the mark and generated the bubble. He said that with the revenue shortfall in the past months and the government's commitment to achieve a balanced budget by next year, it might not be possible to raise additional revenues for pump priming and it would be unrealistic to aim for a higher growth rate next year—like the 7 percent, targeted by more optimistic government economists who are inclined to forecast growth the President would like to happen next year.

Neri places his bet on a 6.1 percent growth. "If we don't have the revenue constraints, it would have been easier to achieve a 6.2 percent growth. From the 6.1 percent (additional growth), we only need about P20 billion in additional spending." This could be money, actually, "we have been investing hundreds of billions in human and physical infrastructure. The next three years will see record levels of anti-dangle cut and government funding for government projects." Barely a week later, Neri was "unexpectedly" relieved of his duties, ostensibly in the spirit of being team-of-the-team, going Cabinet subtitle. Neri was shifted to the Commission on Higher Education, a position whose functions are far removed from his special, technocrat expertise. The shift underscored Neri's

'Doing nothing' in Boracay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS IS "SEASONAL" SEASON IN BORACAY. THE season of the rains, or non-known wind, with monsoon rains and strong gusts driving rain and sand into the resorts, shops and restaurants lining the island's famous White Beach.

So a consequence, almost all establishments have set up tall windbreakers on the beachfront, bamboo or wooden scaffolding with nylon screens or plastic sheets that allow the sea breeze to get in—while keeping the rain out.

Since this was our first time to visit "Boracay" during the August, we are by turns dismayed and fascinated by the windbreakers, which at times look like canvas barriers that close the private enclosure of the beachfront lots as other streets from the other worldly creatures, the screens billowing in the wind like unshocked sails.

This also happens to be the season of Korean honeymooners, says Lynny Gonzaga, chair and president of Boracay Foreign Tour, who has planned host to our group of media people, together with SEDs. Apparently many Korean couples get married during the summer season (as their summer) and honeymooning members have been choosing the island as their destination of choice.

We also spot a number on the morning of our arrival as are avoid merchandise along the beach. We enter more open a group of what looks like novice divers, all clad in wet suits, and we follow them to their destination very soon: their dive shop. Just before boarding, they have to select their fin for scooter pictures, the group breaking into pairs and posing, five forming a "team" with an arm around every each hand, and then looking for the camera. The last to pose for a picture is a young man who is clearly the instructor for the who pose they'll take. We're disappointed though because they seem for distinctly holding up their fingers in the shape of a "V."

Then afternoon, we span even more anxious groups lined up for a ride of our pockets room, including to the cool waters.

* * *

All had been assured we bring jackets and rain gear, as weather at this time of year in Boracay

can be quite "unpredictable." But other than a dampness on the morning we arrived, the rest of the weekend is sunny and hot.

Because of the rains, this is also supposed to be the "low" season in Boracay, but establishments like Lynny's, however, are not open quite a number of families, many of them Indonesians, taking advantage of summer vacation in the United States and in Europe. There are enough people on White Beach to make for a lively scene, and it's not in the least surprising to learn that cut costs the beachfront is here to [illegible] during the high "season" months.

Our media tour is billed as "The Art of Doing Nothing in Boracay," but we find that, after relaxing, there is much that can be done on the island. First on our list and all Intellicell's agenda was a visit to Dr. Emile's, which has come to be our favorite place for cheap but delicious pizza in Boracay. It is little known, mainly because of its location on the far southern end of White Beach (in fact, for some, sure there have been painted signs announcing the place was for sale. So one told, Dr. Emile's is still around, still crowded, and still preparing tasty, crisp and crusty pizza.

* * *

ANOTHER item on our agenda was to sample the breakfast at Lotus Cafe in D'Mall, but digging Buttons, PR consultant for SEAS and herself quite the reverse on Boracay visitors, hilarious on the shortcomings to my internal breakfast in Darwin, a breakfast very good indeed, a fine match to beat D'Mall, it is jointly owned by Nino Grosa, one of the founders of SEDs, and Gary Pinedo, who also serves the Greek restaurant chain in Redwood.

We are not disappointed, enjoying the tasty morning beachfront air as well as a breakfast of pancakes, waffles and yummy "Iceland omelettes," which, lugging says her children ask her to take home to Australia each time she visits. We have to be content either at the restaurant's [illegible] or her, dark and rich and scrumptuous. We're even treated to the sight of two yellow Labradors being walked by their blonde owner, who it seems was training them to swim in the sea.

We also take in the Lotus Cafe for breakfast one near day, enjoying the sun-drenched patio yellow interiors. I order eggs benedict, while the tummy more comfort omelette, and we share an order of French toast. While cool, soggy orange-tinged shakes, it made for a filling meal, one filling to her for us to try the pastries which all the guides recommended. Maybe next time.

* * *

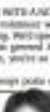
AFTERNOON, we head to all our rentals at Boracay Regency, which is to be the largest condotel rental on the island with 200 rooms, and an additional planned 120 rooms upon the completion of another wing.

Apparently Boracay Regency owners like SEAir have much faith in the future of Boracay. "We have had a long working relationship with Boracay Regency" says Hendra Tan, vice president for commercial affairs of the airline. In some cases, this relationship goes back to the days of the "helicopter" season, SEAir has just moved with Boracay Regency and other establishments on the island with special "team sessions" packages. Particularly attractive is a package for just for P5,750 a NET per person, triple sharing, for four days, three nights, with free breakfast, transfers and air fare. It's a great bargain, considering how much one can do while "doing nothing" in Boracay.

Fat and thin

SAGA IN THE 1980s WHEN I WAS WORKING WITH A NON-government organization, we had a British volunteer who would occasionally come into the office talking. We'd sometimes, often, converse in that semester had again: generally "Ey, Rose, who tells me approve a Duty Rose, you're so fat now."

Brenda Rosal, doesn't it? Rose would always point out me in Britain and in many western countries, such a remark was make and offense.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

With time, she did come to accept that such expressions in her country are not to be insulting the context.

"To say you're fat spoken e," an meant as greetings, unless he takes you've acquired some familiarity with the person. It's a remark going with different meanings, depending on who says it and in what context. Sometimes it's said in praise of a mother-in-law, usually said by grandparents when they see their favorite apo. Other times the statements can be a form of scolding, as when parents (and in our society we extend family relatives, uncles and aunts and grandparents) want a child to put on (or take off) weight.

The term "fat" is also used when it is said to you, like when a driver would do to Rose, who was well liked in her community, especially because she was so "fleet" and yet could speak Filipino. The tricycle drivers, Pinoy style, would greet her and then tell it to be eating passengers, "Ilang tao (three ones)," even if there was enough space.

America

Language has its social and historical context. In the past, if you said a woman, "magpayat ka (get thin)," she could had because it had connotations of illness. Our husband would feel slighted, too, by the instruction that he was not a good provider. Today, in a western state becoming "thin—"Kumapayat ka"—might get her in profanity think you, maybe even get her to treat you to a compassionate meal.

I do worry that in this 21st century, the fat-thin generation have become control procedures. We live in an age where we are bombarded by messages that tell us that we're wrong, with what society thinks is the ideal body size. For women, that's usually on the thin side, some times borderline on emaciation. For men, it tends toward the brick, with flat abs and pectorals bordering on . . . can I use the term breasts?

Images have their impact on women when you say, "You're fat take on a" or even "Samantha ka a." Think of a woman going through a mid-life crisis with a philandering husband.

The excessive attention to body conformation, reinforced by our traditional parenting, can be disastrous as well as very young girls. I've seen many instances where a 9-year-old can't exercise the button industry to stop using excessively underweight models in their shows. The pediatricians' opposition often become young Spanish girls watching the anorexic fashion shows with all the very thin models had become excessively anxious about putting on weight, with many young girls developing anorexia, the eating disorder where they literally starve themselves.

Anorexia is no joking matter; it can kill, slowly and painfully for both the patient and family members. The eating disorder, together with bulimia (vomiting and binge eating), are serious mental health problems that can be fatal, and must treat the sufferer.

Paradoxically, the "hate-take me" barrage can also drive people to traditional overeating. In this case, the person feels so depressed and helpless that she turns to food, and must food, the comfort.

Body image

I've always been thin, and on the receiving end of "pinatpat mo ngayon" and "pumayat ka" greetings. My lolas and other relatives mean well, especially for my health, since they see quite succeeding in getting me to gain weight. Unfortunate, I'd explain to them when I was older. . . if I eat more, I just end up becoming more physically active. There is little I gained weight significantly was when I stopped smoking, quickly gaining 10 pounds, and then doubling 5 and smoking.

I know my weight, and I'm happy with it, these days with a vengeance. I can hear happy friends who used to go, "Nay payat payat mo" to a "You're so skinny" tone. How they make the same statement in a "I hate you" tone, followed by a groan with every question "How do you manage to keep so thin?"

But I did receive a taste people used to do that positive-as-skinny comment because their were many times when it was negative culture. That was usually when I'd be under great stress from work and or getting a remark like that wasn't helpful.

Body image has into self-esteem. If a person is already stressed out, it doesn't help when your comments make them feel even more downtrodden. Learn to say something else like, "Nothing evitable eats, nice color of weight!" and it a weight-loss client, "Wow! Nakapayat ka," which is comes through as tacky and comical.

I thought about that again recently when an older relative went through a battery of medical tests simply because people keep growing him, "You're losing weight." He had asked me about it, and I told him that I'd noticed it, too. In fact, I felt he would actually lose a few pounds and be healthier. Unfortunately, our society still equates older people to be on the heavy side, a sign of affluence.

Anyway, this older relative went through the expensive and exasperating tests only to find there was nothing wrong with him. He was told to eat more. "You're losing weight" remarks can be thoughtless, even harmful. Be especially aware if the person does have an illness like cancer, commenting on how thin he is would be outright cruel.

It will take more than me to get rid of this nasty tradition of fat-and-thin remarks. But I can promise, I'll refrain you to avoid one with teenagers and older relatives, starting now they don't value such statements as: something if you're the one on the receiving end, remember people's intentions with the greetings are usually benevolent. I'll also do a bit of reconfiguring with the words when they say "take," think of yourself as "reinforcing" and when they say "payat," think "thin, svelte, all sexy." Smile back and tweet culturally, of course), "Eat your heart out."

Boracay economy

With some space to spare for today's column, I felt I had to share readers about the many local economy. Many of us've seen the SEAir ads in the Inquirer, and I've received emails and even textmate mailed statements or correspondence of any kind. So you might not be aware that under new Estrada Bank regulations, a checking account due has no less needed for a new business domestic. For savings accounts, the old rule of two years still holds. After that, your bank begins to consider it "dead" and may close it.

I found out the hard way before, with that one bank, they changed the minimum functioning balance on-hour nearly-ing account holders, so besides the P250 a month deduction, they began to deduct another P500. That way, I guess, of selling to cover our banana can.

Introduction to archival work

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH ARCHIVAL WORK came by accident. While I have always been interested in history I had never thought of pursuing a degree in history. In most, I was a commercial economics I read books on history but didn't imagine myself as an academic historian. Until I went on war in Madrid after college.

I decided to take a short trip to Valladolid to visit the museum in the Augustinian monastery that had some paintings from the Philippines. The museum was easy to find, because it was on a street called Paseo de los Agustinos Filipinos. Of course, the friars there were Spaniards, but they were referred to as "Agustinos Filipinos" in memory of the contribution of the missionary work they had undertaken in the Philippines, beginning with Anders de Urdaneta, the navigator of the Legazpi expedition who back in 1565. The Augustinians are best remembered today for many colonial churches built under their dominion, the distinctly looking churches among the huts figures to enhance that village, Miagao.

Inside the Museum, who was then director of the Simancas Library, had advised me to visit the museum and look up the historical collection of the Augustinian Philippine. At the time, I was doing research on Pampanga, the province of my father. I grew myself a title.

Father Rodriguez directed me to the card catalogue for "Islas Filipinas" Across Catalogue to those days). I went through each and every card and found a wealth of information. I remember I stayed up with a long list of things I wanted to see. It had taken a whole day just to skim through the catalogue.

The next day, I planned to open a few books and documents I had found. But I got distracted by the materials, including some on Pampanga, early documents and grammar books, newspaper clippings on the Philippine Revolution and a printed document, "El Proceso Luna," on the trial of Juan Luna for the murder of his wife and mother-in-

law. The date called into a week, and this week turned into a life long career in history.

After that going through the printed materials, Father Rodriguez introduced me to archival sources. First, he asked whether I read Spanish. I had completed 11 units of required Spanish in college and though myself fluent, but there was nothing like what was to be told before the true handwritten, 17th century Spanish. It was a crash course on paleography as Father Rodriguez taught me the basics of dealing with old documents, how to read and decipher the different ways in which consonants of the alphabet were written. Twice a day in the morning before lunch and in the afternoon before the library closed for the day, Father Rodriguez would call down my research, often asking to see my notebooks and proofreading them. I was in graduate school at the time. While I have since returned to archival research on Pampanga years since then, it was this introduction to archival work that provided the foundations for my future research.

Continued on page 2 of this supplement, I returned to Manila and devoted to my use the Records Management and Archives Office, now by law, the National Archives, located at one end of the Sta Mesa Library building on Tod. Father Javier in Madrid, I went to the records room and was promptly given a folder with a list of bundles assigned by subject. On the shelves in the room were several photocopies of documents from certain recent groups of bundles labelled "Proceso Luna," "Revolucion de Pueblos," "Publicistas y Folletos" [illegible]

SC shines as beacon of hope

LETTERS

AS A CITIZEN AND RETIRED JUDGE, I cannot help but express my thoughts in these troubled times. In what seems to be a bleak and darkening social landscape, there is, all the luminous and ever present presence of the Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice Reynato Puno—a leadership that is brave and bold and benevolent—sees fortunately season call, its message loud and clear.

Where the other two branches of government seem to be listening and holdens to their duties and obligations to protect the people from political killings and forced disappearances, the Court has emerged and loomed as a beacon of hope, a true shield of justice, a sanctuary for people whose civil liberties and inherent rights are under threat.

The purpose of government is to "preserve man, his liberty and property." "men living by nature all free, equal and independent"; their rights, declared from the "laws of Nature and Nature's God," are therefore "inalienable rights," as the American people's Declaration of Independence, aptly put it, also "preferred rights" or "indestructible rights," as the Philippine constitutional law so classifies them.

The call of Chief Justice Puno for the judiciary to exercise its special power Constitution, DUTIES) to protect the basic rights of Filipino could not but calm the anxieties and fears of the people.

"I shall do [illegible] which shall be fit for a judge to do"—one more words what Sir Edward Coke, chief magistrate of England in the 17th century, uttered before King James I, when asked whether a judge ought not to first consult the king to a case involving royal prerogative.

And the same, the executive, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the legislature should continue to keep themselves with promoting the economic rights of the numerous disseminados and the powerless.

—CONSUELO G. ESCALANTE,
former president,
IBP Barangay Chapters

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Pasay and Makati de Tamo, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4781, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

RP flag in right blend but wrong position

THE SEE-THRU WORK IN PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address last July 23 in the Session blended beautifully with the blazing red field of the huge Philippine flag displayed for against the wall behind her. What was incongruous was the way the Philippine flag was displayed—incorrectly.

I believe that the flag was displayed not in accordance with Republic Act 8491, (the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines), enacted in 1998, to provide:

"Section 10. The flag ... If in a hanging position, the blue field shall be to the right (left of the observer) in case of peace, and the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war.

"Section 16. (e) Flat against the wall vertically with the sun and stars on top."

Second, 10 points up a flag hanging in the air, where the observer's right or left depends on whether he is observing the hanging flag from in front or behind the hanging flag.

Section 16(e) expressly applies when the flag is displayed *vertically* flat against a wall but do not need to mention where the red and blue fields should be because when the flag is displayed in its vertical position—from horizontal with the blue field on top to that of peace—the top field (blue) of the flag will naturally fall on the observer's right.

Unfortunately because of my unwanted assumption of an high school some 70 years ago, the current way of displaying the flag (vertically flat against the wall in time of peace is still with the blue field on the observer's right. I believe this was not changed by RA 8491.

Unfortunately because of this misreading of RA 8491 by higher officials, flag makers and other wholesalers today are being taught the wrong ways of vertically displaying the flag, as some Bay Streets announcements recently in a TV press. print of Manila Chronicle.

I was also disturbed by this banner during the former's speech that I failed to catch the cost of it. Otherwise, I probably would have been auctioned to the CIAS committee in charge of the inauguration.

—GREGORY B. TANKIEH,
33 Espina Compound,
Is Antiguas St., Cebu City

Sale needed to save NPC's Manansala mural

THEY WHO HAVE ABANDONED (HAVE NO) reason to complain.

The Manansala mural had long been a mute witness to the years (today) decades of inaction as managers of the National Press Club. Its substance remainder if it was to be saved.

On the other hand, the encumbrances or the lack of the land title of the NPC showed unpaid dues entered into by the club, including loans from the Government. Similar instances (by, ours. Why did the club officers of old fail to pay its debts if there were enough funds from membership fees, rents and subscription dues?

The Manila City government was awarded the NPC property in 1971, after the bidder(s) equal the real estate taxes incurred by the property from the 1988. The amount though was ruled by being contrary to Republic Act 980, which prohibits the transfer of the NPC property without authority from the president of the Philippines.

On Jan. 28, 1971, then NPC president Pat Gonzales had President Ferdinand Marcos sign Letter of Instruction No. 506, commanding the GSIS general manager and board of trustees to convey to the club half the property where the NPC building stands. In return, GSIS demanded the GSIS to get the other half worth P1.2 million as payment for NPC's debt of P1.2 million. Now Cruz became NPC president in 1978. He must be remembered for returning the Manansala painting on loaned (mostly). But why did he not work for the implementation of LOI 506?

Thereafter, many presidents came and went—but one paid attention to restoration efforts. The NPC fell into a quagmire of debts (at P1.8 million to its former employees, creditors, bank (for unrecorded dividends to withdraw the workers salaries just money and (b) around P3 million in accumulated interests and penalties. Hey Mabuza, hosting a group of young journalists, was the NPC presidency and he insisted that we consider accounts.

In the same time, the Mabuza administration was faced by the severely deteriorating Manansala mural. An inquiry unveiled by the historians group said P2.1 million was needed for the restoration work. On the other hand, the governing decision was to save the art work from moving to auditoriums.

Thus, a general assembly was called to order to the question of whether to sell the mural or the only option left to save it. The assembly approved a resolution authorizing the NPC board to sell the same. Ballyhoo matters were caused. A quorum was lost.

Unfortunately, those who question the legitimacy of the assembly are the old members who have long abandoned the club by ceasing not to attend any of its activities. After having abandoned the club and the board, do they still have the moral authority to question the sale of the Manansala mural?

—FRED CASIMIRO,
member, National Press Club

Politics a balancing act

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO (MA. LOSA R. (Of) (non-Bolitos, Ph.D. (Manila, 7/25/07) and to the (newly billion hardly (members of IP (Philippines, just some words to the wise. Governorate positions, especially at the Cabinet level, like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, are purely accountant/functionary. Their opinions and viewpoints are left to experts like H. Bolitos. Decisions are made at the executive level and are most likely unchecked (as it is a matter. Politicians are serious on this level.

We have to admit the fact that the reality of the matter is politics. And politics provides the balancing act to the various conflicting interests of society. We may have the right person with the right credentials and the right intentions for the position, as Dr. Bolitos envisioned, but if the policies of our leadership is not effective, then the supposedly qualified executive becomes dysfunctional.

What former Mayor Lito Atienza has is his track record as a politician. In scenarios where he proved himself to effectively function as a leader and as a public executive. He thinks to support like Dr. Bolitos and he has the prerogative to balance conflicting interests and opinions under the glare of public attention, hoping that he has made the right decision for the common good.

It takes wise judges, (more strength of character for a man to remain himself to such a serious environment. This is unlike the private sector encountered by the private sector as well as the academic. The difference is obvious. The reality is not all white is right to right, and not all what is wrong is wrong. And what seems to us as an absolute is for some a relative.

—JUAN BUHAIN, dm2k6@yahoo.com

Moving Asia Forward with Uncommon Faith

The 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awards

Honoring
greatness of spirit
in selfless service
to the peoples of Asia

JOVITO R. SALONGA
PHILIPPINES
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service

Brave one decade after the onset of American rule in the Philippines, Jovito Salonga saw his country through the travails of war, fledgling independence, a harsh dictatorship, and its 1986 peaceful restoration of democracy. A lawyer of great promise and a staunch nationalist, he made his name as a public servant when he prosecuted client-governments' special justice, the rule of law, compassion for the poor, and, again and again, democracy. He was a passionate opponent of martial law. As Senate president, he championed a number of other parliamentary achievements of the revived republic as well as of the political system. Today, as an influential voice in civil society, he continues to keep watch critically, to oppose public waste, fashioning that even affairs of state must be guided by a clear moral compass.

The Foundation recognizes "the exemplary integrity and substance of his long public career in service to democracy and good government in the Philippines."

KIM SUN-TAE
KOREA
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service

Born in the waning years of Japanese colonial rule, Kim Sun-tae was orphaned at the age of six. While he was scrounging for food, a mortar shell exploded and left him blind. In the face of rejection and cruel treatment, even from his own relatives, he became a beggar and learned to survive in the streets. An orphanage, and later in the high school where he became the first blind graduate. Overcoming the obduracy of Korea's military state, he earned a master's degree in sociology at Seongsil University. With determination, determination, Kim founded Seoul Eye Church for the Blind in 1972, assisting its patients in nutrition and outreach. He then founded the Mount Eye Hospital, which was one of the few places with eye-removing surgery was available free in the world. Adding a mobile clinic to service the rural poor and a rehabilitation and training center to help blind and low-vision persons develop job skills, he has reached over 200,000 people through medical and educational services.

The Foundation recognizes "the inspiring intensity of hope and practical assistance to the blind and visually impaired citizens in South Korea."

MAHABIR PUN
NEPAL
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership

Throughout his elementary years, Mahabir Pun's school in Nangi Village in rural Nepal had no pencils or paper or books. Even today on schooldays from each to the village. But thanks to election campaign technology Nangi and many of its neighbors are more dynamically connected to the wider world. This is Pun's doing. Beginning in 1997, he introduced a few secondhand computers in the local high school. A few years later, with the help of telecommunications engineers he began to implement a Wi-Fi network that linked several mountain villages to Pokhara, a city with an Internet connection. Today, thanks to his Nepal Wireless Network Project, once-isolated students connect with modern technical assistance with doctors to distant city centers, and Nangi's honey and cash-generating cottage industry with global customers. Today, all around Pun, the hills are alive with connectivity.

The Foundation recognizes "his innovative application of simple computer technology in Nepal's forbidding terrain to remote mountain areas by connecting the village to the global village."

TANG XIYANG
CHINA
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding

Tang Xiyang might have emerged from China's Cultural Revolution a broken man. Instead, years of forced labor in the countryside led him to the history of nature. Afterwards, he became a conservationist and toured the remote mountains of China and the world, documenting where his studies to conserve and breed. He country's environment was badly damaged, he concluded, and could only be fixed when people learned to respect and reform nature's laws. Returning to China, he founded Green Camp, a network of volunteer environmental groups in the country's environmental degradation. Tang established "Green Camps" to train and inspire young people about conservation. And as a prolific writer and lecturer, Tang became an outspoken advocate for environmental reform, and also for democracy. Without it, he says, "there can be no true hope for green hills and clear waters."

The Foundation recognizes "his guiding China to step on reasoning environmental crisis by leading the nation of its global neighbors and the broader wisdom of nature itself."

PALAGUMMI SAINATH
INDIA
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts

In 1993, P. Sainath was already an established newspaper editor when he decided to shift to investigative journalism. Focusing on life in India's rural poorest districts, he presented his readers with the revelation that poverty was not caused by droughts but by the country's enduring inequalities, aggravated by ill-conceived policies and widespread corruption — all these leading world famous and broken silences into a startling debt. His television reporting exposed shocking truths behind contentious conversion among tribal children, and today's widening gap between "farmers" still. His reports also celebrated the resilience and courage of the poor. Convinced that "Journalism is for the people, not for shareholders," he also began training a new breed of rural reporters to write good, village-based stories and to counter agents of change. His new audiences regarding commons, and national and state officials are increasingly taking heed.

The Foundation recognizes "his persistent commitment to journalism to restore the moral core to India's national consciousness."

CHEN GUANGCHENG
CHINA
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

Chen Guangcheng learned firsthand how to circumvent life's limitations. Blinded as an infant, he was denied schooling for most of his youth. He worked to knowledge by listening to his radio and for age 10 to 16 he completed a curriculum meant to manage and accomplished through Dilgarth, studying his books read to him by others, he became a "barefoot lawyer" and helped his neighbors to register complaints and file civil cases in local courts. He defended the rights of the disabled, secured funds to provide self-relief for village men who suffering factories and lost a five-year class-action lawsuit against local officials for abusive enforcement of China's population-control policies. China's censors targeted local officials. He was harassed and beaten and then convicted and jailed on spurious charges. He remains in jail today.

The Foundation recognizes "his unprecedented courage in challenging widespread Chinese officials to assert their legitimate rights under election laws."

CHUNG TO
CHINA
2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

Born in Hong Kong, Chung To was already a successful banker when he decided to do something to help people at risk from HIV/AIDS in China. Starting in 1999, he set up the Ch Hong Foundation to reach millions of gay Chinese men with sexual information about AIDS through worldwide, personal counseling, legal advice, and links to doctors. In 2001, this work led him to his use of a so-called AIDS cocktail, unavailable for the rapidly rising numbers of infected Hong. Within months, he had established a hotline manned by AIDS, he led the founding effort to work follows on the AIDS Orphans Project. To its credit, the Project provides over 4000 impacted child with financial assistance through secondary or vocational school, and works to train their social isolation. Starting with only 127 members in a single village, today over 4,000 children in four of China's provinces are benefiting from his work.

The Foundation recognizes "his generous and compassionate response to AIDS in China and to the needs of its most vulnerable victims."

Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation

ASEAN SIDELIGHTS

Japan cautions RP vs MILF offensive

ADMS WORDS DEEP CONCERN YESTERDAY over the violence in Mindanao and called on the Philippine government to use restraint in dealing with Moro rebels.

With Philippine forces on the verge of a new offensive after 14 Marines were beheaded on the island of Basilan, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso urged Manila in his condolence.

In speech on Moro Islamic Liberation Front (which was delayed after Japan and Canada protested and could be cut, and Sea-told his Philippine counterpart Alberto Romulo on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian meetings not to damage the peace process with the MILF.

"We must resolve situation where the peace process takes a step back, so earth a development could affect Japanese development projects. We ask the Philippine government to continue to exercise restraint," Aso said. AFP

Malaysia calls for resumption of talks

KUALA LUMPUR Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar yesterday urged the Philippine government and the MILF to continue their ongoing peace talks despite an impending military offensive against Muslim rebels.

Albar said that Kuala Lumpur, which is facilitating the negotiations, remains hopeful the two sides will resolve conflict. "With the strong commitment of the Philippine government, everything is still possible," said Albar.

Malaysia heads the International Monitoring Team which is implementing a ceasefire between government forces and MILF since 2003. Cynthia D. Balana

Japan announces aid for Philippines

JAPAN has granted the Philippines some P535 million in aid for two projects on maritime safety and disaster prevention, officials announced yesterday.

Aso's signed in bilateral talks between Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and his Philippine counterpart, Alberto Romulo, to extend P332 million for the improvement of flood forecasting and warning system in Pampanga and Agno River basin.

The project, to be implemented by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, is expected to upgrade Pagasa's radio network and gauging stations in Central Luzon for more accurate data gathering and warning mechanism.

Another P203 million grant package will go to the installation of communication equipment at Philippine Coast Guard stations for better search and rescue and counter-terrorism operations.

It is aimed at increasing linkages among the PSC stations nationwide through radio, satellite or microwave communications system. Gish Contreras

S. Korea: Don't upset North Korea

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Taro Aso urged day-urged Seoul to include the past abductions of its citizens by North Korea in a public statement, saying Japan needed international support to resolve the issue. AFP/Reuters

Aso made Korea, which was meeting yesterday with foreign ministers of Seoul, along with Japan and China, said the abductions should not be mentioned, apparently not to hamper its trend supporting North Korea.

Earlier this month, North Korea also chose to ask opening nuclear reactor in exchange for aid and diplomatic concessions under an agreement reached in an six-nation disarmament talks in February. North Korea has repeatedly threatened Japan, a participant in the talks, for bringing up the abduction issue during the negotiations.

In 2002, North Korea admitted it had kidnapped 13 Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s and allowed them to go home, claiming the other eight were dead. North Korea has since insisted the issue was resolved. Japan believes some may still be alive and has demanded proof of their deaths. AP

Silent prayer for 2 Koreans killed in Afghanistan

ASEAN foreign ministers held a silent prayer yesterday for two South Koreans abducted and killed in Afghanistan.

At the suggestion of Philippine foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the ministers took a moment of silence at the start of a meeting with their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea.

The Taliban kidnapped 23 South Koreans riding on a bus through Ghazni province on the Kabul-Kandahar highway on July 19, the largest group of foreign hostages taken in Afghanistan since the 2001 US-led invasion.

Two of the hostages have since been killed after the Afghan government failed to meet the Taliban's demand for the release of its pressed hostages. AP

PRESIDENT Arroyo delivers her address at the opening rites Monday of the 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting at the PICC in Pasay City. Behind her are foreign ministers from the 10-member countries. From left, Prince Mohamad Bolkiah of Brunei; Hor Namhong, Cambodia; Hassan Wirajuda, Indonesia; Thongloun Sisoulith, Laos; Syed Hamid Albar, Malaysia; Alberto Romulo, Philippines; George Yeo, Singapore; U Nyan Win, Burma; Virgilio Pesmenjarro, Thailand; Le Cong Phung, Vietnam, and Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong. ⟶

'Motif maestro' gives Asean venue that very RP feeling

From page A1

of tourist gatherings, where the ur ceremonial pieces doesn't necessarily fit be well tempered expressions of native hospitality.

Cuna was the chief decorator of the 40th Asean Ministers Meeting (AMM) and related events having held until tomorrow at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

In 1996, during the Ramos administration, he also opened up the curtains for the much larger Asia-Pacific Economic Conference hosted held in Manila and Subic.

Though often relegated to the "lighter side" of the issues, it was Cuna's reputation that provided opening day salvo in these culture wars another events, providing, for example, an eye-catcher to the obligatory (long-)agonal photo-op of presidents and ministers.

The business caught up with the bubbly Cuna on the phone in his interview yesterday in which he described himself as a "semi-recluse" artist who now had the luxury of being picky with clientele.

"Maybe because my style is pretty much defined by my use of Filipino materials," he said when asked why he thought organizers of the two events—about a decade apart—appeared to have had only one name in mind when it came to picking the motif makers.

He said he was probably commissioned for the AMM after guessing some basis from the exhibit he executed last month at the Ilustrado restaurant in Makati, in which he established the "aesthetic potential of bamboo floorpiece. The exhibit was titled, quite cleverly, "Kawayanihan."

'Bayanihan'

For the AMM, Cuna adorned the PICC main lobby with a piece he called "Bayanihan," in homage to the cherished Filipino value of community members helping one another without thought of reward, or making personal favor for gesture is in exchange for.

The piece depicts two pairs of human figures moving forward with bamboo poles cast on one's end on their shoulders. Their disarticulated—it's the shared objective of theirs...is symbolized by an unstretched panlon plant delicately balanced between the poles.

For his main Filipiniana piece also in the lobby, Cuna again turned to bamboo—palimbuhi kawayan) baskets turned upside down, then grouped up by a pole, and "glossed" together like a clump of overgrown mushrooms.

He said the entire work at the PICC took him under two months to conceptualize and execute.

Cuna declined to discuss his past works for other patrons, saying he was just glad about "being asked where there are important occasions."

But so, he is not that old to have been commissioned by Imelda Marcos, then deemed the patroness of the arts—and builder of the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex where the PICC now stands—during her husband's martial rule.

'Environmental' photos

Also for the AMM at the PICC, organizers mounted the photos of Raul Fernandez, whose works likewise adorned the venues of the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu in January.

Fernandez—another engineer by profession who picked up photography as a hobby only last year, Fernandez said among his works that set the ambience of the AMM meetings were "environmental" in theme—stark and water formations, flower buds, coastlines.

The shots were taken on scenic locations, said Fernandez, who learned in his new craft under photographer Manny Sevosevic.

Rights violators to be treated 'Asean way' of consultation

From page A1

vened to the heads of state. The heads of state are free to go consensus, or voting, whatever. Heads of state are the ones which is international norms cannot clamp down on the heads of state. That's their prerogative," she said.

Manuel likewise said there was no need to put a compliance mechanism in the human rights clause because by ratifying the charter, the state parties are obliged to comply.

"We'll find that in the charter there is the ratification package. That is really different from sanctions," she explained. "That is because there may be issues that in the exercise of their obligations may only oblige halfheartedly or what you call token compliance which may give rise to disagreements."

Earlier, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said that the Asean foreign ministers had agreed that it was up to the leaders to decide whether to make a decision on certain important issues based on consensus or voting.

No limitation

"The leaders will determine by themselves how to proceed on certain things," he said at a press conference. Romulo said other decisions could be made by other method than consensus.

"The draft charter does not require that Asean leaders make decision by consensus. There is no limitation imposed on them on how they make the decision and this include decision such as imposing sanction on member countries. As far as the leaders are concerned, there are no limitations," Manalo said.

Romulo said he did not expect the human rights provision to generate opposition from the Asean members.

Until yesterday, Burma (Myanmar) was said to be opposing the creation of a human rights body and voting provision because it had been close on moving toward democracy—a concern expressed by the Asean ministers in a joint communique issued on Monday.

Asked why Burma has taken a long time in dealing with Burma and its alleged human rights abuses, Romulo said: "But again, we will never run out of patience as a member. We'll work together and see how we can help Myanmar."

Manalo also said the criterion that Asean had been too soft on Burma and its members with a slow compliance rate was misplaced.

A western perception

"This are it's a perception of the West. In Asean, they should understand that that perception does not work. In Asean, there are ways of doing things which from the point of view of non-Asean means ah, 'it will undermine, etcetera.' But that's your perception," Manalo stressed.

"In Asean, they work on consensus and comments. If they can't work together what else they can do. That's it. There is no confrontation. Asean does not like confrontation. That's why they will never put parliamentary rules against to divide the group and then oppose to create confrontation in the group. They will not like that," she said.

Romulo also said that the ECFF are confident that by the next Asean November deadline in time for the 13th Asean Summit in Singapore. She said a final draft may be approved by the foreign ministers in the first week of September.

Reasonably confident

"The foreign ministers are already happy with what we have accomplished. We are reasonably confident that we will meet the deadline," Manalo said.

"That is why we're proposing in the foreign ministers to review it for the leaders to pursue it a special meeting. If there is a need to go before then that, it will only have to be to tie up loose ends," she added.

Manalo said the draft would carry a provision for a human rights body with the status of ref erence to be established by the effective ministers.

Condoleezza Rice no-show a plus for China growing clout

From page A1

ment Asian block, is deepening its economic ties and influence in the region to its traditional backyard.

China's emergence as a power-broker in the region is all the more impressive because of its difficult relationship in the past. In the 1980s, ethnic Chinese minorities in countries, like Indonesia and Malaysia, were often viewed as fifth columnists for Beijing, tasked by suspicious communist governments to foment PROMOTE disorder, steal local wealth, or subvert local governments.

China is now regarded as a viable regional partner, widely respected for its growing economic, cultural and military clout. Other countries seem to develop potentially lucrative markets there and use to dump labor.

China's clout

Over the past seven years, China's trade with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations has more than doubled, seen as to outward impact has spread, bolstered by a series of Chinese-sponsored summits designed to touch the Chinese heartstrings and introduce Chinese culture.

Beijing also has poured billions of dollars into the development of its Navy, providing an important military dimension to its commercial and cultural push.

"China's influence has certainly increased throughout South East Asia over the past two decades," said Ikuru Liu, who teaches Chinese studies at Ateneo de Manila University. "This is particularly true in the areas of trade and investment, where it is really very strong."

In contrast, many see the United States as a power waning in the area due to its overcommitting preoccupation with Iraq, Afghanistan and the potentially crisis-ridden Middle East peace process.

Sufficient attention

American trade with Asean has barely grown since 2000. And even if cultural bellwethers like mass-market Hollywood films still have a powerful resonance, deep skepticism about the thrill ness of American political preaching has considerably dampened their ardor.

"It's clear that the administration has not been paying sufficient attention to Southeast Asia," said ex-ex-specialist Kit Collier of Australia National University in Canberra. "It's understandable, mainly because of the war in Iraq, but it's still unfortunate."

Still, American influence does seem to be growing faster than Beijing's in some areas. Consider this: It is still among Vietnam, which just last month sent its president on a groundbreaking visit to Washington.

While Rice in the Middle East, the United States will be represented at this week's Asean meetings by Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, an old Asian hand.

Spokesperson Marlene Lumenlight of the US Embassy in Manila said Negroponte's presence was a clear indication that the United States still considered Asean as an active relationship with Asian countries.

"We are certainly looking forward to very productive meetings both bilaterally with the Philippines and with all the regional countries," he said. "For us, this is a very important event." AP

Viagra included in cheaper medicine bill, says Roxas

By Cliff C. Cabanongan Jr.

TO SEE MORE ZEST TO SEE cheap medicine bill, law like Botox is making sure all medicine—from life-saving drugs to Botoxic drugs like Viagra—will be covered by the price-freeze measure.

Botox told reporters that the cheap medicine bill he had refined...his previous version was opposed by the Senate but got stalled in the House of Representatives, would have all manufacturing to include erectile dysfunction drugs.

"It's (Viagra) a drug so I don't see why it should not be covered by the cheap medicine bill. We should really cut the price by more than 50 percent," Roxas said.

"Of course, our priority is the essential drugs, like those for cancer and diabetes."

All drugs

Drugs used to treat erectile dysfunction by increasing the flow of blood into the penis have become popular but are still out of reach for most Filipinos.

Roxas said the inclusion of all drugs should broaden public support for the approval of the cheap medicine bill by the new Congress.

"I welcome the President's remark on the bill during her State of the Nation Address," he said. "I also see hope in the House Speaker's intention to expedite its approval."

Parallel importation

Roxas said the Senate "will (have) any lobby to defeat this bill."

Roxas' bill would ease restrictions found in the Intellectual Property Code and allow the parallel importation of medicines and their cheaper distribution from other countries.

It also allows generic drug manufacturers to begin export, importation, production and registration of drugs before the expiry of patents.

The bill proposes to grant the government discretion in the use of patents when public health is at stake, and provides a framework for ample compensation to the patent holder.

Vegans begin . . .

From page A1

Three vegans not only refuse to eat meat or animal products but refuse to have animal matter with meat-eaters because they believe that they are also responsible for the slaughter of dead animals. One researcher was reported as saying in The Post newspaper on Tuesday.

Annie Wick, a director of the New Zealand Centre of Human and Animal Studies at New Zealand's Canterbury University, said the researcher went on to eat meat foods during her research.

She discovered that vegans refrain while interviewing 137 vegetarians and others committed to a study.

"It's a whole new thing...I have never come across it before," said Wick.

Her vegan said while she found nonvegans attractive, she would not want to be physically close to them.

"I would not want to be in contact with someone whose body is literally made up from the bodies of others who have died for their sustenance," she said. AP

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

E-mail: pr_inquirer@yahoo.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Lilia Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Running Pangasinan gov't as a CEO

Editor's Note: The Inquirer Northern Luzon starts a series of roundtable discussions with newly elected officials in the three southernmost provinces in the region. On July 31, the bureau staff sat down with Amado Espino Jr., who may be the only nonpolitician so far to have assumed the governor's seat of Pangasinan.

QA

Although Espino, 58, was a member of the 12th and 13th Congresses representing the province's second district, he is known more as a police and military officer who belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1972. He's a publisher, too.

Since his first day at the Capitol Annex, the office and official residence of the governor, he has been running the provincial government as a chief executive officer than a rule-dwelling politician. In this unscripted edition, he vowed to bring the province to the people.

In the roundtable, Espino described his new role as leader of one of the biggest provinces in the country. Excerpts:

Jueteng is a very good issue, but to me, it's the least of my problems, says Espino

IT HAS BEEN THREE WEEKS since you assumed office. How was it?

Why? I did the *Usec* **work** you to talk to key personnel of the capitol ... We also had a getting-to-know-each-other party where all the mayors, vice mayors and councilors from the province's six districts attended.

I also talked to the provincial government officials to see how we can help them improve their performance. I told them not to wear slippers in their offices because the capitol is not their living room.

More importantly, if you are not satisfied with your salary, because it's not that much, then you can resign. We can not having anybody to work in the provincial government.

I discovered that there are a lot of unfilled positions here — Vice Governor of nine regular plantilla. Int, we have no less than 1,000 in casual and [the budget for] our personnel services (which includes salaries of employees) is more than 50 percent, which is way above the standard set by the local financial budget of the provincial government.

It's a mess and we are trying to do some housekeeping.

So, will there be streamlining?

Yes, there will be streamlining.

Is there resistance? Is what you have been doing?

I think so. Would you believe that we have employees here who have worked as casuals for 20 years? They are supposed every three months, every six months, renewed by you.

There's the morale of the provincial government employees?

I would only assume that those who are happy with what we have been doing are those who are really sincere in doing their work ... There are many here who are 50-50s (about to retire). There are also many who are doing under-the-table [but are] not in their job description.

I also found out that during the 1998 elections, 52 sanitary inspectors were assigned to the province's cities and towns. But the provincial government has been paying their salaries since 1998.

I have asked the mayors to absorb these sanitary inspectors. Based on my computation, the province may have spent some P170 million since 1998 for the salaries of the 52 sanitary inspectors. Saying the least, it was a lost for the government.

In our hospitals, for instance, the provincial government pegged a quota for them to earn. For instance, [with them, "but should make P8 million this year." And so here, the employees, who were paying only P50 in the world, will have to pay more P400.

The first attention of the hospitals is to fulfill that quota that the provincial government has given them. That's the first priority. But I told the director of the provincial hospital that [he] should be the last [priority].

Some will be removed?

Yes, we have to ... but I'll have to fill up the career positions first.

Do you have a timetable for this?

Yes, in the first two months, we will introduce this. What I wanted to see is for our employees to learn to be efficient and to respect their employment and to love it. How can you lose your job if you are showing it every three months? I want them to take pride in what they do.

What are your plans for Pangasinan?

Pangasinan is a premier province when I was a cadet [at the Philippine Military Academy] in 1968. There were only two premier provinces then — Pangasinan and Cebu.

Most during the last session that we had in the 10th Congress, [President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team] Cebu and we [in] regard to infrastructure, information technology and tourism. Pangasinan was left to agricultural production because we do not have the basic infrastructure [for industrialization], like ports.

What problems can you report if you do not have a port? If people do not have employment in the area, what kind *you* **expect from an investor, for instance, that I will invite from Caloocan to come to Lingayen? Should you believe that he would come here to his car and then we are in his car also because I could not give the investment due** *schillenness*?

We have started to improve our airport here ... We are now making the report of Lingayen Airport I used as that we are accommodate tourists, airlines and the plane services. Ayan wanted to have activity. Three years maybe too short.

In the next 10 years, if we don't still see big investors coming to Pangasinan, expect to not late, because you must have to prepare for infrastructure here — the port, the airport, service roads.

What other projects are in the pipeline?

Agriculture. We shall start from agricultural. My first order is to stop cutting our products in the province. There is an estimate losing 20 containers every [whole] day that goes out of the province. I mean, those going out of the province must not pay. Those coming in must be taxed double.[But it turned out we could not double the tax because there is a provision in the ordinance that we will have to wait for two years before we can amend it.

We have eight schools here that teach agriculture-agrivet to produce hybrid rice ... But when our farmers use hybrid seeds or rice seeds, they buy them from Nueva Ecija, Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya. But do not have those seeds here, although we are reaching out pests in produce hybrid rice.

You said through our agricultural produce, we could go into industries. What industries, for example?

There may only be two finished products now that can go into industries: Fish and mangoes. Pangasinan mangoes are the best-tasting mangoes in the country because we are near the Zambales [mountain] range and we have the Zambales agro-mangoes. Yes, when we take those mangoes out of the province, it's not that Mangaldan, Asingan or Binlo, we have dried mangoes from really. Why can't we produce them?

Our dried fish and boneless [bangus]. We have the best bangus in the entire Philippines. We still just have to improve the packaging.

We have asked the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center to teach us how to store vegetables, onions, especially in the Benguet-Ilocos area. That area produces 25 percent of the country's total onion consumption. So, there is no single storage facility there.

What is your position on gambling operations in the province?

I promised [Lingayen-Dagupan] Archbishop [Oscar] Cruz that there would never be STL [small town lottery] in Pangasinan. There are so many people who want to operate the STL in the province. One hundred members passed [an ordinance allowing] STL.

I understand there is no "jueteng" [operation] in Ilocos, in Baguio and in San Fabian. The control of jueteng is left to the local police. Every gambling matter we make [sure it is under my chief of police], tanda [you, I ordered the provincial police director to go stop it and I told him], "I'll leave that to you. The least that you can do there is to eradicate it, despa."

Actually, jueteng is a very good issue but to me, it's the least of my problems, as some say. There is lot of problems in the province.

What is your campaign slogan?

We have the best facilities in the entire region. We have the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center. We have the biggest talent pool in our schools ... But never if our athletes have played here and we have the least number of delegates and observers when the games are held here, it's no use spending a fortune.

We will push boating, cycling, tennis, gymnastics, and track and field.

Do you have a timetable for this?

I told our teachers: Let us accept that we are not getting the best students now in track our children, Unlike before, when we were young, I said, that our teachers were career-oriented ... Now, a lot of our students are teaching simply because an education course is the cheapest.

I told them, I know that you develop the children's knowledge, skills, values, and [their] attitudes. I appealed to them to do more, if possible, on the quality of the children as they grow up, like bringing back to them old teaching-ng values.

We will [also] improve school facilities. That's why most [of the people] that I hired are carpenters. I will get here a battalion of carpenters just to repair the facilities. We do not need to build more schools; we just have to repair chairs, the rooms, etc.

How will your police and military background help you in running the province?

I have promised that I just want to improve the peace and order situation to enable the farmer to sleep well without any fear that his corn or camalon will be stolen. If I could also reduce the use of illegal drugs by at least 50 percent, I would be happy because I am the author of the Dangerous Drugs Act. I understand my job here.

What do you hope to accomplish in three years?

How I wish the peace and order situation will be improved, the use of illegal drugs drastically reduced, and the productivity of our farmers improved. And most importantly, I want our people to feel that their provincial government is concerned about their welfare. I also want to prepare our province to make it conducive for investment.

On tourism, we will first encourage local investors. I'm thinking of tourism within the province in the meantime. We have Hundred Islands here in the coastal area, and we have the mountainous area. My tourism will come here if we do not start first. Let's prepare small investments to tourism and they will follow.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(PAGCOR) ... (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41)

Across the NATION

More Pampanga execs travel to HK

It's 'fellowship' for vice gov, 13 members of board

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA VICE Gov. Joseller Guiao and 13 provincial board members are bound for Hong Kong today (Wednesday, Aug. 1) for a three-day vacation and work.

"It's purely for fellowship, team building and planning too," Guiao said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

"It's not just pleasure," he said of the June, the first that they took since their reelection or new term in office.

The overseas excursion came a week after 11 of 21 Batangas lawyers spent three days in Hong Kong and Macau for "bonding."

Leaving with Guiao are Board Members Constancio Gatbo and Sacrito Halili of the first district; Aldo David, Arthur Ardolfo and Catalina Bagsican of the second district; JQ Quiambao, Raul Dantagio and Catherine Lazo of the third district; and Ricbert Galang and Florante Salazar of the fourth district.

Ex-officio members of the board—Mike Cabalka for councilors, Conor Maggay for the junior councilors and Salvador Quiwa for the Sangguniang Kabataan—are joining the trip.

Who paid?

Guiao and they have all needed the members of a travel permission costing P1,000 for a round trip.

Asked who shouldered the cost, he said he and his colleagues paid for their fare as well as their hotel accommodations and food.

He said their sponsor backed out after the business reported on the trip, scheduled originally on Aug. 9.

Three capitol sources said a Pampanga representative would pay for the trip.

Guiao said he was paying for the fare of his executive secretary, Jay Dytiapilan, and the secretary of the board, Lisa Rivera.

In their travel orders, which Gonzalez Pamilio signed, they described the travels to be "privileged" and at "no cost to the government."

In a related development, most members of the Pampanga Municipal League attended the meeting of the provincial development council on Tuesday.

Only six mayors were absent but sent their representatives, according to PIO, one-way Aisley Manio.

Their approval of the PDC's plan for 2007, which is composed of at least P1.65 million worth of projects, depressed reports that Boy and Bep, Juan Miguel Arroyo had hatched a plan against Pamilio while they had dinner in Hong Kong on Thursday.

No plot

"There's nothing to plot about," Arroyo told the business on Monday.

Three mayors—Marino Morales of Mabalacat, Teddy Tarriela of Minalin and Edgar Flores of Bacolor—said they were asked them to unite and to presidents before them.

"If anything was said or planned against Among Ed, I would have been the first one to defend him because he is my kababata (townmate)," Flores said.

Labor Major Dennis Pineda, PMI president, declined an interview on the mayors' relationship with Pamilio, a Catholic priest who defeated Pineda's mother, Lilia, in the May 14 elections.

At the session, Pineda presented Flores' motion to approve the development plan.

Based on planning sessions, the 20-percent development fund was apportioned an average of P1 million worth of projects per town.

The province, local executives and representatives of non-government organizations agreed to prioritize the rehabilitation of nine district hospitals and the provincial hospital.

Pamilio called the PDC consultations to be "historical" given that it was held in the time of former Gov. Mark Lapid.

Fellowship, bonding

Board Member Quinambao confirmed this during the session, saying that the non-convening of the PDC violated the law.

The PDC will submit the development plan to the provincial board for approval.

The mayors belonged either to the Lakas-CMD, Nacionalista Peoples Coalition or the Opposition's original party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

"We had dinner to bond, for fellowship," said Arroyo. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

FARMER Ben Sawian walks on his dried up farm in San Rafael, Bulacan. The reason is plant rice has started, but the absence of water prevents farmers from starting the task. LEO ESTOCE

Cloud seeding receives more funds

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has ordered the release of P28 million for cloud seeding operations out of a total of P644 million to finance measures to reduce damage from a dry spell that was hurting Luzon.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said at least P200 million in damages were expected in the form of P2,000 each to some of rice that would be destroyed as a result of the drought.

The funds would come from the Department of Agriculture budget.

The DA has started cloud seeding operations in Angat Dam to help raise the dam's water level and reduce damage to palay in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Jorge Estrada, chief water resources development officer of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), said the supply of water to the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) would taper in the next two to three weeks if no rain fell in the Angat area.

He said the NWRB used to release 72 cubic meters per second of water to NIA for irrigation in Bulacan and Pampanga. The rate was lowered to 25 cubic meters per second following the drought.

But the supply of water for irrigation could stop to allow the NWRB to continue supplying Metro Manila homes and businesses.

Estrada said August is the most important date in Central Luzon as it is the source of water for Metro Manila.

Benita Gana, corporate communications manager of the National Power Corp. (Napocor), said the slight increase in the dam's level (10.14 meters) on Tuesday was due to the efforts of cloud seeding operations in the Angat area in the past two weeks.

The government hired five more planes for cloud seeding.

Alan Peñaranda, head of the Office of Civil Defense, said water already would be the targets of the cloud seeding operations.

Hopefully he said, "water will pour to the dams."

The five planes would be added to an Air Force plane that is currently conducting cloud seeding. The government spends P1.7 million for each plane.

Isinilo Pabuaj, NIA deputy administrator, said about 30,000 hectares of rice land in Bulacan would dry up if no rain fell in two to three weeks.

The NIA, in a report to Malacañang, said more than 350,000 hectares of farms in the entire Luzon would suffer from the dry spell in the next four months.

NIA officials presented staggering figures of projected losses—more than P400 million in lost irrigation income for the agency and about P14 billion in lost income for farmers.

In Isabela, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap urged IA personnel to reach out to farmers to help them cope.

"Get out of your offices. It is a golden opportunity for all of us to work with them in these times of uncertainty," Yap said on Monday.

DA officials feared the loss of 395,000 sacks of potential rice harvest from 1,034 hectares of farms.

Rising temperatures, the DA said, also led to a fish kill in five hectares of tilapia ponds in Cotabato, Isabela.

Aside from cloud seeding, the DA also planned to distribute shallow well pumps and offer P20 million for leveling to farmers for the repair and cleaning of irrigation canals.

But rains induced by cloud seeding fell on Cotabato, instead of Isabela, Luzon. The DA said it was good news just the same because Cotabato also suffered from drought.

Reports from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Jerusalem Calderon, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Florante Calleros, Inquirer Northern Luzon and TJ Burgonio, Abbie Olea and Christine Avendaño in Manila

IncardAsia Co Ltd
Let's Play for Rich!
HELPING PEOPLE!!!
IMPROVE THEIR LIFESTYLE!!!
A Multi National Corporation is expanding its industry in the Philippines
Cracks down poverty through unique AMS System
Be a part of the unique AMS System and enjoy the benefits
✓ Stable Job
✓ An Insured Life
✓ Great Opportunities
✓ Leisure and Income
✓ Changed Lifestyle

DA says hog cholera over, but 500 pigs dead

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—HOG dealers in Bulacan and Pampanga, top hog producers in Central Luzon, have been contained, but not after it killed at least 500 pigs, according to an official of the Department of Agriculture in the region.

As of July 27, the most recent data, viruses like disease had killed at least 10 percent of the 8,158 affected swine in the two provinces, said Dr. Ramon Manaldo, chief of the regulatory division of the regional DA.

Provincial veterinarians said the virus spread to 8,158 pigs in 22 towns in Bulacan and 2,288 pigs in 17 towns and this city in Pampanga, DA reports showed.

Virus spread

Malolos, Balagtas and Bocaue posed the highest number of incidents in Bulacan at 853, 835 and 419, respectively.

In Pampanga, most of the incidents were recorded in San Simon, Porac and Candaba at 598, 390 and 344, respectively.

All the incidents took place in backyard piggeries and not in commercial farms, Manaldo said after an assessment with government veterinarians here on Tuesday.

He said the spread of the virus has been stopped through vaccination and by disinfection.

In Bulacan, he said 16 percent of the 1.079 million swine are raised in backyards. In Pampanga, 75 percent of pigs are fattened in backyards.

"No outbreak have happened in commercial farms because they have been observing strict sanitary measures and veterinary care," Manaldo said.

Hog growers in Bulacan and Pampanga felt the weight of the disease on their business, so:

Manaldo said hog cholera has been an endemic disease in the region's animal sector, undergoing a lull in 2004. The same strain has struck since June, he said.

"I think that full-pounded swine raisers break among small growers," he said. A bottle of vaccine costs P150 and is good for 50 animals.

"We have contained the virus. There are no new incidents so far," Manaldo said.

The virus, he said, does not affect humans.

Boga strikes with the virus' first days appetite, show signs of diarrhea and fever, constipation, and red spots on the skin.

Animal quarantine checkpoints have been set up at the boundaries of towns to control the spread of the disease.

Earlier, officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) found the hog cholera virus on a live swine that they took for laboratory testing recently.

Investigation

They initiated the submission of the live animal for investigation to the BAI after they detected some health problems in a backyard piggery in Plaridel town.

Balagtas, one of the largest sources of pork in the country, has about 300 hog and swine farms, officials said. About 80 percent are commercial farms while the rest are backyard farms.

Bulacan supplies most of the meat needs of Metro Manila and in nearby provinces.

Officials said only Bulacan lost animals for testing to the BAI to ensure the disease. He said they earlier thought the animals were suffering from pneumonia.

He also dismissed claims that cases of foot and mouth diseases were found in the province's hogs. Rosario Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

PRO-CYCLE
#1 in Home Gyms!
www.procyclequipment.com
WORLD-CLASS EQUIPMENT TO MATCH YOUR BUDGET!
SELECTORIZED MACHINES
LEG & LEVERAGED MACHINES
TRAINING BENCHES
PLATE-LOADING MACHINES
WEIGHTS & RACKS
CARDIO EQUIPMENT
Call us for a free CATALOG & PRICE LIST or for information or planning your gym
742-19-09 SEPTEM, INC.
741-09-14
743-13-49
Fax: 743-13-48
Email: septem@pldtdsl.net
Visit us at: 1st Floor, Unit 1, Cityland 10 Tower 1, H.V. dela Costa St. cor. Salcedo St., Makati City

PORK is displayed at a market in Dasmariñas, Cavite after hog cholera broke out in Bulacan province. AFP/JAY DIRECTO

More deaths reported as dengue fever lingers

DENGUE FEVER IS STALKING COMMUNITIES in the Visayas and Mindanao, bringing deaths and illness to thousands of people, mostly children.

The mosquito-borne disease killed two children in two towns del Sur town in a week, raising fears dengue was spreading quick in the province.

Ten-year-old Vanessa Montelano, a resident of Mandaue, died on Monday at the Davao Medical Center in Davao City.

Before her, three-year-old Vincent Noel Martin, 3, of Malita town, died at De Dipot Doctor's Hospital in Digos City, also of dengue.

Gerard Valenzuela, the girl's father, said his daughter was brought to the hospital on Wednesday last week because of high fever.

By the time Vanessa was in the hospital, she was already suffering from loss of blood.

But the provincial health officer said there was no cause for alarm.

Dr. Melchisidc Calimlaraw, provincial health chief, said there was a slight increase in the number of cases since January but this didn't require the declaration of an outbreak.

In 2006, she said, there were 51 cases. There are 34 cases this year, she said.

She said the occurrence of dengue deaths in the province was expected because Davao del Sur was a "dengue-endemic area."

All it takes to keep the province dengue-free was for residents to keep their surroundings clean.

"Let us not be complacent, we have to clean our backyards so that dengue-carrying mosquito will be destroyed," she said.

In Malita, the Malita City government has stepped up its campaign against dengue fever as two more children died of the disease last Saturday.

The Malita City health office (CHO) identified the two fatalities as 5-year-old Jhenette Calimlaraw of Barangay Balangonan and 7-year-old Ms. Angelie Jo Camarillo of Barangay Tuyan.

Their deaths brought to eight the number of deaths in Malita City from January to July, the health office said. At least 85 people were stricken.

Mayor Jerry Trobas said the battle against dengue should begin on the destruction of mosquitoes' breeding places.

Dr. Ulysses Barcenas, city health chief, said fogging was an option but could expose people to toxic chemicals. He said fogging merely drives away mosquitoes and does not kill them.

The Church stepped into the picture, calling parish priests to help disseminate information on dengue and its prevention.

The number of dengue fatalities stood at 22 in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental. The number of deaths in Negros Occidental struck by the disease was 1,464 since January.

In Bacolod City, three more were added to the list of fatalities. One was a 14-year-old girl in Barangay Sitio Ilaya. Another was a 4-year-old girl in Barangay 40 and the third was a 5-year-old girl from Barangay Mandalagan.

Health officials in Eastern Visayas said a dengue outbreak in Pambujan, a Northern Samar, town is now over.

"We can safely say that the dengue fever outbreak in Pambujan is now under control," said Dr. Teogenes Sabuna, DOH regional director. Orlando Ely-ezey, Inquirer Mindanao; Reynald Israel Alaap and Carlo J. Gomez and Jose A. Acibeto, Inquirer Visayas

ATTEND AND BE INSPIRED BY THE 2007 YOUNG MARKET MASTERS AWARDEES (YMMAS)
2ND YOUNG MARKET MASTERS SUMMIT
THEME: NEW MARKETING INITIATIVES
Aug. 7 & 8, 2007 1:30pm to 6:00pm
BALLROOM, MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI
Day 1 (Aug. 7, 2007 1:30pm-6pm)
1
LAUNCHING NEW PRODUCT CATEGORIES
Aurora Hungphar-Suarez, Publicist, Summit Media & YMMA awardee for Business Development
2
LAUNCHING VALUE SERVICE FROM A NEWER PLAYER
Shareefee Abdurrazac De Joya, Advisory Account Manager, Ogilvy Communications & YMMA awardee for Account Management
3
LAUNCHING NEW FLANKER PRODUCTS TO PROTECT TURF
Cecilia Chiong, Senior Brand Manager, Mead Johnson & YMMA awardee for Brand Management
4 & 5
LAUNCHING SERVICE IN A NEW MARKET
Candice Alabastro-Ang, Vice President for Marketing and Product, Cebu Pacific Air & YMMA awardee for Service Marketing
Jane Basas, Senior Marketing Manager, Smart Communications & YMMA awardee for International Marketing
6
LAUNCHING MARKETING INITIATIVES: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Dinah Ramos, Managing Director, Mars, Incorporated & Honorary Chairman & YMMA awardee for Marketing Management
ymma
The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) is an advocacy project organized annually by Manamih and Fielders, Inc. The awards seeks to recognize young marketers 30 years old and below who have done outstanding brand building and innovations.
For inquiries or registrations, pls. visit our website at www.manamih.net, text 0920.9233783, call Alice or Gail at 725-3168/725-7340 or email us at info@manamih.net.
Platinum Sponsor: ABENSON AV Partner: Asia Pacific Partners
Manamih and Fielders, Inc.
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!
814 Ilang-ilang St., GF Makati Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112
Business World Inquirer

A WOMAN and her children find temporary shelter in a hospital in Digos City as one of her children was found positive for dengue fever. Health officials in the city were keeping track of an increasing number of dengue cases. ORLANDO DIMAANO

Mindanao power sufficient

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—WHILE THE ALARM has been sounded for the projected power shortage in Luzon, including Metro Manila, a ranking official from the Department of Energy (DOE) said Mindanao has nothing to worry about yet.

Energy Assistant Secretary Mariano Mapandi said during a multi-sectoral consultation here on Wednesday that Mindanao's power supply remains stable, especially with the completion of the 210-megawatt coal-fired power plant at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental.

Mapandi said Mindanao, which draws much of its power supply from hydro sources, has an reserve total power demand of 1,100 to 1,200 megawatts.

The island's power plants have a combined capacity of 1,800 megawatts, he said.

Mapandi said the power supply in Mindanao is expected to remain stable until 2009.

But Mapandi admitted that, like Luzon and other areas of the country, which are facing power crisis, Mindanao would have to step up plans, too.

He said among these plans include the putting up of more power plants.

Mapandi said a DOE study found that from 2008 to 2014, Mindanao would need an addition of 908 megawatts to meet the increasing power demand growth rate of 6.5 percent per year.

He said installation generating capacity targeted the private power companies that the Aquino and the Ramos administrations implemented.

During those periods, Mapandi said that power companies became a duly guarantee and benefited up to 12 hours.

According to a set of data from the World Energy Council, daily power outages wrought havoc on the country's economy with an estimated loss of P600 million to P800 million per year during those periods.

The projected shortage of electricity was blamed partly on the lack of enough water to power turbines in the country's hydroelectric facilities.

Another reason was for the projected shortage was the lack of supply of coal by coal-fired plants.

Despite the projected shortage, however, the Manila Electric Co. has announced it was increasing its power rates due to various factors. Agaton Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

The country's first mobile TV right in your hand.

SMART

TV anytime, anywhere.

WIDEST COVERAGE

CLICK AND WATCH

LIVE

UNLIMITED VIEWING

Watch it now! FREE Trial until August 31, 2007

Entertainment

Never miss another show from popular channels.

News

See the news unfold as it happens when it happens.

Sports

Catch the latest sporting events on the go.

Documentaries

Always be informed and in the know.

Subscribe now! Call *6988 or 888-1111 for more info.

Aplus METRO

QC courtroom scene of hostage drama

Robbery suspect subdued after 15-minute struggle; hostage unharmed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

PEOPLE ATTENDING A HEARING in a Quezon City courtroom yesterday morning panicked after a robbery suspect held a news photographer hostage for 15 minutes. The hostage taking incident took place after the Department of Justice promised to review security measures to reinforce all over the country after a man took four people hostage for nearly 24 hours at the Taguig City Justice Hall in March. The hostage taker, 41-year-old former Marine Alfredo Villegas, was killed by police. Seven adults and four children were rescued unharmed.

At around 10 a.m. yesterday, robbery suspect Allan Carbungco, 31, took court stenographer Melinda de Ocampo hostage in the sala of Judge Nanette B. Angeles of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 86.

Ayon Ding to Zeth Lacsiga, a court clerk who witnessed the incident, a lawyer for members of the Magdalo group was speaking to the judge when Carbungco, who was waiting for his case to be heard by the judge, suddenly leaped from his seat and jumped over the barrier separating the judge, the court employees and lawyers from the other people in the courtroom.

The area surrounding Sampaguita Street in Barangay Holy Spirit, where Carbungco lives, was cordoned off as police and members of the Scene of the Crime Operatives (Soco) arrived to investigate the incident.

Carbungco was charged with robbery with violence against persons in connection with the March 2 robbery of a Mercury Drug store in Barangay Holy Spirit, where he allegedly took away P1,000 in cash and medicines worth P2,000.

Carbungco was also charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition in connection with the March 2 incident.

Carbungco was arrested by police on March 3 in Barangay Holy Spirit.

Carbungco was detained at the Quezon City Jail.

Carbungco was arrested by police on March 3 in Barangay Holy Spirit.

Carbungco was detained at the Quezon City Jail.

QC COURTROOM A2

3 dorms in Manila's U-belt face closure

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday ordered the closure of three dormitories in the University Belt area for failing to comply with safety standards.

John Sangalang, head of the committee on dormitories at the City Administrator's Office, said they already gave the owners of the dormitories notices of the move.

The three were identified as Mrs. Ordonez, a resident of 1280 Adelina St. in Sampaloc; Angela Torralba, owner of Alice's Dormitory at 686 M.T. de los Santos St., Sampaloc; and Jocelyn Mangao of 932 D.H. Loyola St., Sampaloc.

Apart from being considered "fire traps," Sangalang said the dormitories, which catered to students and transients, were found to have committed several violations such as operating without a license, overcrowding and poor ventilation.

He added that before they issued the closure orders, a joint team composed of members from the fire, sanitation, engineer, permits, treasurer and administrator's departments inspected the establishments.

Manila is host to several schools and universities, its a result, Sangalang said that the city has a big number of student dormitories, some of which are old houses that offer bed space for P200 to P400 a month even if they do not have a license to operate.

Sangalang said the three dorms were the first ones to be shut down under the administration of Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Relocation of informal settlers set next year

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE is eyeing the relocation of thousands of families of informal settlers living in the metropolis starting next year until 2012.

The Metro Manila Inter-Agency Committee (MMIAC), composed of officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Philippine Commission on Urban Poor and other local government units, is targeting 15,000 of the 84,000 families living alongside waterways and railroad tracks.

In a regular meeting of the MMIAC last week, the committee members agreed to prioritize the relocation and relocation of informal settlers in Quezon City particularly those living On Left/National Housing Authority (Kingdo property, Commonwealth Avenue, at the corner of Batasan Magsaysay and Sauyo Roxas, Barangays Matandang and Manresa, and Area-A-1 areas.

Also to be given priority are those living in Port Area and on 11 lateral roads in Bonifacio Drive in Manila.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, whose agency is leading the committee, said that he does not see any obstacles in the government's plans in strict and relocate the squatter families.

The 58-ha has already allocated 3,000 lots in Calauan, Laguna for the 15,000 families who will be evicted first.

The agency will also conduct a survey among beneficiaries and is in charge of ensuring that funding requirements for the project will be met.

The MMDA, for its part, will undertake clearing operations and also provide assistance to the informal settlers.

DID YOU KNOW

(MORONG) is Municipalyong City is the first mall in the country to receive breastfeeding stations. The stations, located on the basement of the mall's building A, between the food court and the ice skating rink, it has a kitchen counter and a sofa. The station was launched in March 2006 by SM Supermalls. Children for Breastfeeding Inc. and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Cecil L. Arcadeta
Inquirer Research

HOT THE TWO-EARED VARIETY
An Internet cafe on Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City has quite a few mice—attached to computers.

Recruiter gets life term from Pasay court

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PASAY CITY COURT HAS DOLED out life imprisonment a businesswoman after promised applicants nonexistent jobs as train pushers in Australia.

Nida Adonis, owner of Naples Tours travel agency in Pasay City was convicted of large scale illegal recruitment by Judge Ma. Rosario Bagnas of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 118.

Nine of Adonis's other co-accused—Grace Sardenis, Shely Tano, Genoveva Ito, Beatriz Dionisio, Jason Gonzales, Shirlou Bagaforo, Marlyn Sheng, Loreben Chang and Shenkidel Pano—are still at large.

Bagnas also ordered Adonis to pay a fine of P300,000. Adonis was also found guilty of four counts of estafa and was sentenced to six years imprisonment for each charge.

"The accused misrepresented herself as one who can make arrangements for job placements in Australia, and complainants were induced to part with their money convinced by their charming and persuasive," the judge pointed out.

The five victims who used Adonis' services—Mary Jane Palmes, Samuel Abaya, Aileen and Charlie Mosquetes and Edilberto Sanchez—testified that in 2002, they were recruited by Adonis, owner of Naples Tours. The victims were also asked to pay a placement fee ranging from P50,000 to P60,000.

'Informal settlers in cemeteries have to go'

By Allison W. Lopez

HOMELESS PERSONS WHO have found a refuge in Manila's cemeteries will be evicted this month after Mayor Alfredo Lim received complaints on various crimes allegedly committed by the informal settlers.

Families of the deceased reported to the mayor that during burial ceremonies, some settlers would forcibly take coffins bearing their loved ones from them, carry these to the graves, then charge them for the unsolicited service.

"That's plain extortion. The families, naturally, would want to carry the coffin themselves as a form of paying their last respect to the deceased," said Lim.

Pot sessions

The mayor added that there were also complaints that pot sessions were rampant in the area, resulting in other criminal activities.

Just yesterday morning, three men believed to be residing in the North Cemetery in Sta. Cruz were caught in the act of using a lampshade cultured as PS,000.

In his report, Insp. Renato Solis of the Manila City Half-Special Operations Group (SOG), said members of the City Security Force arrested Ricardo Cardoll, 27, and Leandro Suarez, 19. Their companion, known only as "Pulak," was able to escape. The suspects did not have permanent addresses, he said.

Upon inspecting the area where the three were seen, police discovered that an engraved bronze shell bearing the name of Lorenzo Bernardo was removed from a mausoleum.

Solis said they were still waiting for Manila North Cemetery officials to press charges against the suspects.

MetroBriefs

More charges vs Teffes

DRUGS-related charges filed against Makati salaryman Ramon Teffes and his brother, Rolly, in the Manila Regional Trial Court are the subject of City Prosecutor Christa Agulto-Guerrero's probable cause for the case. The charges against the Teffes were changed to Criminal instead of the grave and high threats originally filed by the complainant, Leandro Mangaoang, district collector of the Bureau of Customs. Mangaoang had accused the Teffes of threatening him if they were not able to file a case against importer Le Peng Wan, reportedly a friend of Ramon, who was caught importing several thousands of ecstasy pills and marijuana last Sept. 20. Sought for comment, Ramon said he was only doing his job when he wrote about Mangaoang in his column.

Allison W. Lopez

Supermarket robbed

ROBBERS broke into the Rainier Supermarket on the Guadalupe-Commercial Center on Edsa, Makati City, after it closed on Monday night and made off with P 10,000 in cash and an undetermined amount of groceries, PO2 Neil Oscar of Police Station 6 said yesterday. The city police chief and robbery said that they were looking into the possibility that the holdup men are in cahoots with the employees of the supermarket. Oscar said that they were looking into the possibility that the holdup men are in cahoots with the employees of the supermarket. Oscar said that they were looking into the possibility that the holdup men are in cahoots with the employees of the supermarket.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Grisly discovery

TWO Bicolnapit fishing floating in the Pasig River undetected memory. Investigators said the bodies were found in a plastic bag on Monday afternoon found by the head of a young woman's hands. Police reports said the grisly discovery was made by residents of Barangay Malate. J.P. Fourth Mandaluyong City PO1 Domingo Mendoza of the city police said the victim was about 18 to 25 years old, a pink blue shirt and a pair of jeans found in the plastic bag. The discovery came a few days after the San Juan City police found the torso of an unidentified woman in a garbage dump in Barangay San Pedro. San Juan police chief Supt. Ruben Lacson said he has sent a team to determine whether or not the two could be missing parts of a headless torso they found Sunday morning.

Khaled J. Alon

A WOMAN makes her way to the chapel at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati City where Mass is celebrated every Sunday.

Hearing Mass at malls OK, but observe solemnity—Rosales

By Jerome Aning

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH celebrating Mass in shopping malls and department stores as long as its sanctity and solemnity are observed, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said yesterday.

Speaking over Catholic-run Radio Veritas, Rosales said that while the Church has allowed Eucharistic celebrations in malls, these should be held in the establishments' chapels or in decent places, even "in a quiet corner" where people could actively participate.

The cardinal added that Masses in the Archdiocese of Manila—which covers the cities of Manila, Makati, Mandaluyong and Pasay—would also be allowed in department stores provided permission is given by the parish priest who exercises jurisdiction over the area.

A story about the growing number of malls which have built chapels in their establishments appeared last Sunday in this section.

According to Rosales, the Church has allowed Masses to be celebrated in malls to reach out to its faithful.

In the pre-Vatican II days, he recalled, Masses were celebrated only in churches. In the 1950s, church authorities allowed Eucharistic celebrations in schools, to get children to participate.

Masses were later allowed in large shopping malls where most people converge on Sundays.

"People from the provinces usually drop by the malls and are given the opportunity to attend to their Sunday obligations," the prelate said.

QC courtroom . . .

From page A21

more than a year but I am innocent," Lanojo asserted.

The suspect then grabbed Dr. Orasmo and held a scissors on his neck as Magboyo quickly left the courtroom.

In that point, Prosecutor Jonathan Lledo, who was in court, took out his gun.

Negotiations

For the next few minutes, Lledo and a policeman, PO2 Bobby Londiano, talked to Carbungco, willing him to give himself up, which he did after 15 minutes.

"He would have continued the battery of his actions because he was surrounded by court personnel, the policeman and Prosecutor Lledo who pointed a gun at him," the court clerk said. The missing explosive was unburt, except for a few scratches near her eyes, and was reportedly traumatized by the experience.

It was not known how Carbungco managed to get hold of a screwdriver.

Court records showed that he and his sister Arlene, who jumped bail, have been on trial for robbery since 2003.

Cancelled

The Judge, Lanojo said, decided to cancel all hearings scheduled for yesterday, including the case filed against six Magdalo soldiers linked to the Oakwood mutiny who were arrested in a house in Fairview, Quezon City last year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Fires in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG — Fires that have swept through parts of South Africa in recent days have killed at least 13 people and damaged scores more, officials said Wednesday. The government was considering declaring the hardest hit Mpumalanga province a disaster zone, the South Africa Press Association reported on Monday. "Damage is quite extensive. [There's a] loss of lives, homelessness [where] farms] lost their livelihoods, grazing lands affected, plantations affected, was not widespread, affected, loss of jobs," Local Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi said after flying over the most-hard-hit areas in the eastern province. AP

Drug re diabetes backed

GAITHERSBURG, Md. — GlaxoSmithKline Plc's diabetes pill Avandia should remain on the market even though data suggest it may raise the risk of a heart attack for some patients, an advisory said on Monday. Most of the advisory panel said the Food and Drug Administration should ask for strong new warnings on the widely used drug, but evidence was too thin to justify halting sales. Data "does suggest there is an increased risk," said Dr. Clifford Rosen, the panel's chair. After hearing six hour sessions of testimony of data, the panel voted 20-3 that Avandia may increase the chances of having a heart attack for some patients. Members voted 11-1 that Avandia should stay on the market. Reuters

New bird flu death

HANOI — A 23-year-old pregnant woman has died of bird flu in Vietnam, medical sources said on Tuesday, bringing the death toll in the country to nine in less than two months. The woman, who lives in Tay province outside the capital Hanoi, died Saturday after being admitted a week before to a hospital, said a source at a Hanoi hospital who asked not to be named. "There were symptoms for the H5N1 virus," the source said, adding that the woman had been seven months pregnant. AFP

Thai elections set in December

BANGKOK — Thailand's post-coup general-election will take place in December, a top official said a draft constitution to write the nation's next month, coup leader Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin said on Sunday. "Elections will definitely be held at the end of this year, no matter what happens to the charter in the Aug. 19 referendum," Sonthi, who overthrew elected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra last year, told a Bangkok radio station. Thaksin, who lives in exile in London, has urged voters to reject the military-sponsored draft charter, calling it "a tool of the powerful few" and a "step back" for democracy. Reuters

WONDERFUL WORLD
This spectacular "blue marble" image is the most detailed true-color image of the Earth to date. Using a collection of satellite-based observations, scientists and visualizers stitched together months of observations of the land surface, oceans, sea ice, and clouds into a seamless, true-color mosaic of every square kilometer of Earth. AP, NASA

US Chief Justice taken to hospital after seizure

WASHINGTON — US Chief Justice John Roberts suffered a seizure and was taken to the hospital on Monday but a neurological evaluation showed no cause for concern, a Supreme Court spokesperson said.

"Chief Justice John Roberts, 52, took a fall about 2 p.m. today near his summer home in Maine after suffering what doctors describe as a benign idiopathic seizure," court spokesperson Kathy Arberg said in a statement.

Arberg said Roberts, 52, suffered minor scrapes in the fall but said he was "fully recovered" from the incident. He will stay overnight at the hospital as a precaution.

He was taken by ambulance to Penobscot Bay Medical Center in Rockport, Maine, where he underwent a thorough neurological evaluation, which revealed no cause for concern," Arberg said.

Roberts experienced a similar seizure in 1993, Arberg said.

Seizures occur because of sudden, abnormal electrical activity in the brain. They can often cause a person's body to shake rapidly and uncontrollably, but not all seizures cause convulsions, according to MedlinePlus website.

An idiopathic seizure is one that has no known cause. Most seizures last from 30 seconds to two minutes and do not cause lasting harm, MedlinePlus said. Seizures can have many causes, including medications, high fevers, head injuries and certain diseases.

Roberts is the youngest of the nine Supreme Court justices, who are all appointed to life terms. He has no known medical conditions.

The chief justice was at his home near Bar Chris, Maine when he suffered the seizure. The area around Bar Chris, midway up the coast of Maine, is known as a summer vacation spot. Reuters

FBI searches home of Alaska's senator

GIDEWOOD, ALASKA — The FBI and IRS have searched the home of Republican Ted Stevens in a ski resort in Alaska as part of an investigation into his links with an oil services company, officials said on Monday.

"All I can really say is we are conducting a search at the residence. We can't go any deeper into detail than that," said Dave Miller, spokesperson for the FBI in Anchorage.

The FBI said they entered the senator's Girdwood, Alaska home in the early afternoon with a search warrant. Television and news media streamed the two-story alpine ski lodge in the shadow of Mt. Alyeska while agents combed the grounds.

The longest serving Republican in US Senate history, known for delivering billions of federal dollars to his home state, Stevens in a statement said: "My attorneys were advised this morning that federal agents wished to search my home in Girdwood in connection with an ongoing investigation.

"I continue to believe this investigation should proceed to its conclusion without any appearance that I have attempted to influence the outcome," it said.

Girdwood is about 40 miles south of Anchorage, the state's largest city. The vacation enclave is nestled between Turnagain Arm, a glacial-fed body of water, and densely-forested mountains.

Stevens, 83, is the subject of a grand jury investigation into his links with managers of VECO Corp., the state's largest oil services company, as well as numerous unrelated Senate earmarks.

In May, Bill Allen, then the chief executive of VECO, along with a vice president, Rick Smith, pleaded guilty to several federal corruption charges. The two admitted paying over $400,000 to lobbyist Bobbie Kancilia.

Allen had been a financial supporter of Stevens' campaigns and a partner with him on a race horse. He also oversaw a project to remodel of Stevens' Girdwood home in 2000, moving hills and construction work.

The Anchorage Daily News has reported that contractors who worked on the remodeling of Stevens' home had their records subpoenaed by the federal grand jury.

Stevens told reporters two weeks ago money for the remodeling came out of his state pocket. The paper reported on its website: "Every bill that came out to us has been paid, privately, with our own money, and that's all I have to say," Stevens told reporters. "It's our own money."

The investigation of the senior Republican comes as Democrats, who won power last year with the help of voter disgust over nearly republican scandals, allowed legislation to clean up congressional ethics. Reuters

Japan's opposition blasts Abe

TOKYO — Japan's resilient opposition on Tuesday blasted Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for refusing to offer dozens an election mauling and vowed to fight to stop him from expanding support to the US military in Afghanistan.

Abe, an outspoken conservative who supports a larger military role for officially pacifist Japan, suffered a major setback Sunday as voters rushed his party from the upper house of parliament.

But Abe has vowed to stay in office, insisting that voters supported his broader agenda despite their anger over scandals and Japan's creaky pension system.

Abe "is trying to get away with such senseless conduct, trying to keep his cabinet in charge even after his party lost the majority," said Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the main opposition center-left Democratic Party of Japan.

"I don't think he will gain people's support and understanding by doing something so selfish," Ozawa said at a party meeting.

It was his first appearance since his party's historic vote Sunday sent Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled Japan for most of the past half-century.

Ozawa, who has a history of health problems, had taken a rest due to fatigue after the election campaign.

The Liberal Democrats maintain a large majority in the more powerful lower house, meaning they can stay in power and override votes by the opposition-led upper house.

But the opposition needs clear if would work against any execution of laws allowing Japanese ships to provide fuel and other logistical support to US-led forces in Afghanistan.

"We have opposed the bills to the core. There is no way we will turn around and support them now," Ozawa said. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ilustre

OVER SEX SLAVERY

US legislators ask Japan to apologize

WASHINGTON—THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has rebuked US ally Japan and called for an apology for the sexual slavery inflicted by its wartime military on 200,000 Asian "comfort women."

In a resolution passed by a voice vote on Monday, lawmakers called on the Tokyo government to make an "unambiguous apology" for the existence of women into army brothels during the 1930s and World War II.

The non-binding measure says the "government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner" for its "coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women.'"

It calls on the Japanese prime minister to make a public apology, urges the government to refute any claims that the episode never happened and warns future generations of the cultural "this horrible crime."

But Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed regret at the vote, saying he hoped to look to the future instead.

The conservative leader, who last started controversy before with his remarks on so-called "comfort women," said he had already made his views clear when he visited Washington earlier this year.

"It is regrettable that this resolution was passed," Abe told reporters.

Backers of the resolution immediately hailed it as sending an important message to Japan about the need to make further amends over an episode that still scars, generations after the war.

In Seoul, South Korean former "comfort women" welcomed the resolution as offering hope for victims of Japanese troops.

"We welcome the passage ... and demand Japan immediately express its willingness to accept it and fulfill its responsibility" the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan said in a statement. AFP

ENDANGERED FAMILY
Sumatran orangutan Bertha (left), feeds her offspring, Rahsa (...) on Tuesday at the Singapore Zoo which houses 23 orangutans, the largest number of the species in captivity in the world. The Singapore Zoo has constantly put in efforts to educate the public about Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, (which is) is being critically endangered with an estimate of only 50,000 Bornean and 7,300 Sumatran orangutans left in the wild to date. →

Taliban kill 2nd hostage

GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN—(2nd lead) to save the lives of South Korean hostage held by Afghanistan's hardline Taliban militia took on new urgency on Tuesday after the rebels said they had killed a second hostage.

The Taliban Islamic insurgents also warned that more would die if the government did not meet their demand to free Taliban prisoners in its jails.

A spokesperson said a male hostage, among a group of 23 mostly female Christians captured on July 19, was shot dead late Monday after two deadlines that day had expired.

The Taliban's claim would need to be immediately confirmed. Police were dispatched to search for the body in an area of the southern province of Ghazni where a Taliban spokesperson said the corpse had been dumped.

The hostage would be the second killed by the militants, who last week shot dead the leader of the Christian group—a 42-year-old pastor. "We set several deadlines and (the Afghan government) did not pay attention to our deadlines," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP late Monday. AFP

$63-B arms package for Middle East allies bared

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT—(1st Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert Gates kicked off a regional tour to Egypt on Tuesday seeking to unite Arab allies against Iran's "destabilizing" influence.

The tour joint trip, preceded by the announcement of a multi-billion-dollar military aid bonanza for Washington's friends in the region, will also seek help to stabilize Iraq and bolster the US-backed Baghdad government.

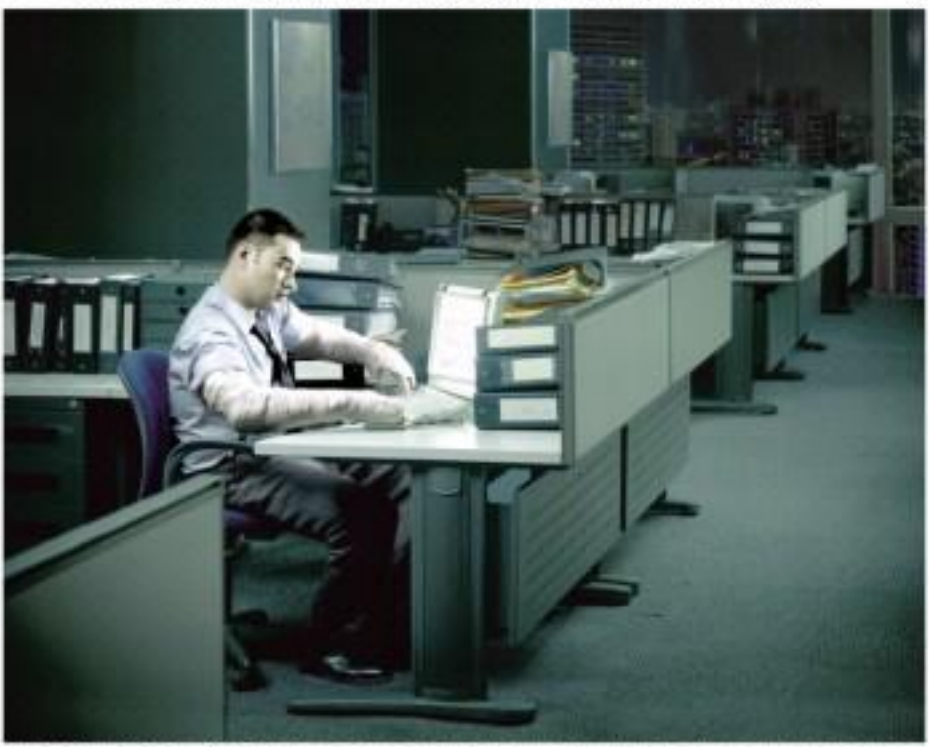
No security promise nor huge arms sales would undertake twin diplomatic missions to Iraq," Rice told journalists on her way to the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, signaling also his further Iraq debt forgiveness.

Announcing its approval in Australia, Washington on Monday said it would hand out billions in advanced weaponry to so-called moderate Arab states whose foreign ministers the US does not trust.

The new military package worth $20 billion for Egypt and $60 billion for Israel is in essence Iran.

"We are working with these states to fight back extremism and to give a chance to the forces of moderation and reform," Bush said, dismissing Iran's charges that the arms package would create fear and "turn relations between countries in the Middle East.

"I think if there is a destabilizing of the region, that can be laid at the feet of an Iranian regime that is engaging in the kind of activities that I just outlined," she said. AFP



Better get an insurance plan that works for you. PruLink Protection Plus is an investment-linked life insurance product that provides for hospitalization, critical illness and accident protection. It affords extended medical care, pays daily hospital income for up to 365 days and covers 36 critical illnesses. When you can choose where your premiums will go, you can focus on getting back on your feet.

Always listening, always understanding. PRU LIFE U.K.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ 'Like Chot, everyone's bleeding' /A26

SPORTS
Editor Tobbysin S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ Celtics get Garnett for five players, two future picks/A28

Alapag rescues lethargic RP five in win over Syria

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN—JIMMY ALAPAG PUT DIGnity back into the fight for leftovers, wearing the same game face he has worn in a heart-rippling tournament so he could give the people back home something to smile about.

"I feel like I had my heart ripped out of me," said Alapag, who stood in the locker room Monday night after the loss to Jordan that dropped the Philippines out of a well-almost-inclusive of Olympic shoot-outing.

"But, you know, when you have the chance to put a smile on at least one person's face back home, you have to grab it. You have to continue fighting."

And fight Alapag did.

He produced the points and the plays when San Miguel 80 couldn't seem to shake off a headache-inducing lethargy early in the game, then his outburst free throws in overtime at the Pilipinas arrived just thirty, 107-100, Sunday morning in the 19th Asia men's basketball championship at the Aoy Tokushima.

Jimmy Alapag launched seven points and Dondon Hontiveros knocked in a couple of three-pointers in a 13-1 overtime run to ice the win for San Miguel-All.

Here's what Alapag's game high 11 points and five assists, and his unnerving insistence that his teammates continue playing, shot really worked wonders for the Pilipinas.

"I just kept telling the guys to keep on fighting," said Alapag. "It's a credit to the guys that they didn't give up."

Mostly, they didn't because Alapag wouldn't allow them to.

In a crucial play in the fourth quarter, Mark Caguioa stalled a fastbreak and committed a traveling violation in the process. Alapag just didn't let Caguioa hear about it. He also came down hard on Asi Taulava, who seemed on, jamming the transition offense when Alapag asked for the ball to slow things down.

And when the 6-foot-9 Taulava heard his hand and tapped his chest in the universal translation gesture that means "my bad, I'm sorry," it showed just who Alapag, his 5-foot-9 teammate at the Talk 'N Text squad in the PBA, is in this room.

"He's got so many brains, you can't even begin to count them," Chot Reyes, the national coach, said of San Antonio's apologist. "But he's the team's leader for and off the court; he keeps this team together and leads the players."

Against Syria, a game played just a little over 24 hours after the heartwrenching 88-79 defeat to Jordan, there was only trouble...a 0-for-5 start, finals—to fight for.

"To be quite honest with you, it's hard getting up to play at nine in the morning after losing and coming so close to get one of our group," Alapag said almost as a whisper as he trudged through the hallway heading to the 02 locker room.

"Especially if you think that there's nothing left for us to play for."

It hardly looked like Alapag had nothing to play for.

When Syria's Michael Mandaly threatened to demolish the Philippines neighborhood in the third quarter after punishing San Miguel's 6-9 defense with 16 first half points, Alapag came up closing with gutsy drives in the lanes and pop-up jumpers to help the Pilipinas kick the corral at 69 going into the fourth.

"There still is something to play for, and that's everyone back home," ALAPAG SAID.

2% CAR/TRUCK LOAN
L.A. CAR ACCESSORIES & TINT MOON
HID XENON LIGHTS
SUPERB LASTING BRIGHTNESS
Php 9,000 up
ONLY P59!
Meron ka pang 2 days Call and Text Unlimited!!
SUPER VALUE P50
SUPER
SOBRANG SULIT NA SUN SIM ITO!
Bili na!!! Para Makapag-Sun-to-Sun With A Lot More Friends!
Affordable Fire Trucks
ORIGINAL LEFT HAND DRIVE UNITS
HAIR TRANSPLANT
Before
AFTER
GET BACK THAT NATURAL LOOK
- Nose Lift
- Bust Lift
- Eyebag Removal
- Face Lift
- TummyTuck
- Butt Lift
- Liposuction
- Others
We Also Offer 2-year Training in General Cosmetic Surgery
PAN PACIFIC AESTHETIC INSTITUTE
Call for Entries!
ALAY SA PALATANDAANG BAYAN

NORWOOD

PBL's Magnolia five dead-set on signing Norwood

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN—GARY NORWOOD, THE 6-foot-5 guard who once starred for DEMAJAN-ual four squad George Mason University, could be the next big thing in the PBL.

The national team's second string setupman is set to play for Magnolia in the coming PBL season, hoping to parse the way for a possible stint in the Southeast Asian Games and for the Philippine Basketball Association.

"He has offers from the United States; in different leagues there," said national coach Chot Reyes. "He is interested, but he likes to come to the Philippines. So first if there is a chance to play in the PBL, he'll gladly take it."

Robert Non, the team manager of the San Miguel SP squad scrapping here in the Fiba Asia championship, said Magnolia is almost certain to sign up Norwood for the coming PBL season.

"We're already working on that to bring him over," said Non, who added that there is a very strong chance that the team will loan Norwood to the national squad that will represent the country in the coming Southeast Asian Games in December.

The country is hoping to defend the 2003 it won in 2005 in Vietnam. Basketball was ducked from the 2005 SEA Games in Manila because the country was under Fiba suspension then.

Mikee Romero, whose Harbour Centre will handroll the Philippine basketball campaign in the SEA Games, has openly asked for guidance of players and Norwood is home for SP squad.

And with Magnolia fielding Norwood and the PBL batting competitions for the duration of the SEA Games, the requests may just be fulfilled.

Norwood is a cinch to represent the country a second straight time after performing well for San Miguel SP in the Olympic qualifiers.

But although he is eligible to play for the country in the SEA Games, his PBL stint next year will still depend on whether he can process his documents—enough to keep a Justice department certificate as his Philippine lineage.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Pelaggio Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Biomass Furnace to be Retrofitted to existing 6 ton/batch Recirculating type Mechanical Dryers

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) now invites eligible firms from Regular Philippine to the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Biomass Furnace to be Retrofitted to existing 6 ton/batch recirculating type mechanical dryers.

The Bidding Lots, quantity per lot, project sites and Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) are as follows:

LOT	QUANTITY	PROJECT SITES	APPROVED BUDGET
A	1 unit	NFSC, Isabela Mallorca, Sto. Tomas Pili, Camarines Sur	P1,000,000.00
B	1 unit	Dalmacian, Iloilo Dumalag, Capiz Ilaya, Bohol	P1,000,000.00
C	1 unit	Dipan, Davao del Sur Tagum, Davao del Norte Koronadal, S. Cotabato	P1,000,000.00

Delivery of the Goods is required within 90 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (RA 9184), of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is open/limited to organizations with at least a duly licensed (BFI) interest in constructing similar work belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act P.D. 84 of 1985). Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee, in cash, in the amount of P5,000. Five Thousand only (P5,000.00).

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents	August 01 to 08, 2007
Pre-bidding Conference	August 08, 2007 10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids	August 20, 2007 10:00 AM

Unless for the Pre-bidding Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids, all will be held at the NFA Board Room, 6th F. Pelaggio Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check, in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract. Late Bids will not be accepted.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to bid whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) LEONARDO C. ARIÑA
Deputy Administrator for Operations and Chairman BAC

(PDI—August 1, 2007)

'Like Chot, everyone's bleeding'

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN—OUTSIDE A TROPICAL-THEMED RESTAURANT in front of a rustic-lined canal, two rows of torches exuded bright yellow flames dancing in the soft late evening breeze.

Inside, an entire 44-man national squad was embers.

"Like [national coach] Chot [Reyes] said, we're bleeding," said Manny V. Pangilinan, sweating an all-encompassing line that aroused the ears of the Philippine Basketball Association squad that blew by Olympic hopes after an 84-76 defeat to Jordan Monday night in the Fiba Asia men's basketball championship.

PANGILINAN

But even spelling out the road map to stand that tomorrow, it wasn't enough for Pangilinan to drown up an atmosphere inside the restaurant, especially after the huddle among team officials and players who manned the diamond's camaraderie in next year's Beijing Olympics.

"It's hard, because we wanted this so badly. Not just for ourselves, but the value our sacrifice," said Reyes, clad in his characteristic red shirt and khaki shorts.

And she sobbing that started in the locker room uplifted over to the after-dinner talk. Pangilinan, Reyes, ace Jimbo, Bennet Rimada, Kerby Raymundo, PBA-caliber Dondon Patrick Gregorio and PBA chair Ricky Vargas openly shed tears. It was hard to tell from the teared heads who else wept.

Maybe it was better not to see this early," Pangilinan said. "Sometimes, you learn more from defeat than you do with winning. With winning, sometimes you think, regarding to no (points already good). Maybe this was a strategic loss.

"Gives you big impression or big damn issues (Gilas Asian Games have improved vastly and). We weren't able to keep pace.

"Let's learn from this," he added.

And with Magnolia fielding Norwood and the PBL batting competitions for the duration of the SEA Games, the requests may just be fulfilled.

Norwood is a cinch to represent the country a second straight time after performing well for San Miguel SP in the Olympic qualifiers.

But although he is eligible to play for the country in the SEA Games, his PBL stint next year will still depend on whether he can process his documents—enough to keep a Justice department certificate as his Philippine lineage.

AP FIVE quartet Jimmy Alapag drives for a basket against Syria as Mo Tautuaa (left) gets ready for the rebound.

"We have to analyze what we need to do."

Pangilinan says all eyes will be on the 2009 Fiba Asia, which is the qualifier for the 2010 Turkey World Championship. Unlike the case for the Olympics, which only guarantees one team slot through the Fiba Asia, the World Championship gives Asia three slots.

Opening talks with Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann to narrow over the possibility of hosting the 2009 qualifiers is a huge first step toward that goal, the duo agreed.

In this edition of the Fiba Asia, the Philippines left into the so-called Group of Death with China, Iran and Jordan, three of the top five teams in Asia currently.

"If not for the group[, Philippines should be in] final four," said Syrian coach Jamer Rayah.

Jordan's Brazilian coach Moka Fahmy allowed the same analysis, saying even the country's 84-76 Jordan-RP knockout match "can go on to win the championship."

"After the loss to Jordan, we thought, maybe the [outside] chances to qualify Philippines in direct," Reyes said after the Gilas dropped a 107-100 overtime decision to the Filipinos. "We tried to use this to win but we were not lucky. Philippines is [a] really good team."

Pangilinan wants it to be good enough to at least fight for seeds in the 2008 Olympic Qualifiers. And maybe center changes, including the possibility of fielding a naturalized player, is one option to consider.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

[illegible]

Name of Project Brief Description	One (1) lot Supply of labor and materials for the replacement/repair of pavers (1 unit) and bonding (strip and re-installation at the BSP Davao Regional Office per BSP scope of work and specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P600,000.00
Completion Period	Within sixty hundred (100) calendar days after receipt of the Job Order

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project/contract executed and completed from 7/2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All contractors seeking an Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 1 August 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 13, 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	10 August 2007 11:00 a.m.
4. Opening of Bids	20 August 2007 2:00 p.m.
5. Bid Evaluation	Three days as in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of 2003, R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
6. Post-qualification	
7. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever in compensable or indemnify bidders for any preparations incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUBIRIA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI—Aug. 1, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project Brief Description	One (1) lot Supply of labor and materials for the replacement/repair of pavers (1 unit) and bonding (strip and re-installation at the BSP Davao Regional Office per BSP scope of work and specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P600,000.00
Completion Period	Within sixty hundred (100) calendar days after receipt of the Job Order

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project/contract executed and completed from 7/2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All contractors seeking an Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 1 August 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 13, 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	10 August 2007 11:00 a.m.
4. Opening of Bids	20 August 2007 2:00 p.m.
5. Bid Evaluation	Three days as in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of 2003, R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
6. Post-qualification	
7. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever in compensable or indemnify bidders for any preparations incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUBIRIA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI—Aug. 1, 2007)

I take responsibility for our failure–Reyes

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN—With shots tangling over Sun Mbgad-Zol and the pain of a recent bout still lingering, no one could speak definitely about the future of the squad.

That's something for the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) and the Fiba to decide," said national coach Chot Reyes after his team's 107-100 victory over Syria at the start of the lower classification round of the Fiba Asia championship.

The Philippines, playing for its best, ninth place, continues to use the relaxed manner that led to name the dream of qualifying for the Beijing Olympics.

"Our play the kind of game we are capable of playing when we [lose] time," said guard Jimmy Alapag.

That setback, where the Philippines left behind early, came to within one and then watch the several slip away on a rebound that slapped on the bench and a defensive lapse. Jayson Castro helped RP to a couple of fast-break baskets to keep the Filipinos flirting.

After a gallant stand against China, the dream was comprehended by a host to Jordan.

"I take responsibility for our failure," said Reyes in an apologetic tone. He left his team—and that of the team—to tackle BH

REYES: Open to SBP

"I signed up to be the national coach so of the Fiba Asia 2007," Reyes said. "What happens next is up to our national federation."

That's the lingering question mark surrounding the guarantee lists. Pill an all-pro squad continue to represent the Philippines in major international meets?

The team, though, is eating to stay together.

"I am willing to go through this together with some benefit of play-on," said Reyes.

"This is really the first time in a long while that we are playing in a major international tournament," said Alapag. "Hopefully, we will be able to continue playing international [so] we can improve and get better as years go on."

Alapag rescues . . .

From page A-13

who still seem about as winning as losing," he said. "And as long as somebody back home cares about us winning, we have to continue digging deep and trying to win the remaining games here."

The scores:

SYRIA (84)—Adash 23, Hassan 21, Sabri 10, Alsabbagh 7, Al-Hallak 6, Ayoubi 5, Alsalibi 4, Abdul-Hamid 3, Bitar 1, Rahmeh 0.

Quarters: 18-24, 36-48, 61-81, 84-84, 107-100

Jayson N. Sakti 15, Dalmar G. Arellano 13, Mark E. Barroga 3, Mark J. Barroga 2, Wilson G. Baldwin 0.

SYRIA (84)—Adash 23, Hassan 21, Sabri 10, Alsabbagh 7, Al-Hallak 6, Ayoubi 5, Alsalibi 4, Abdul-Hamid 3, Bitar 1, Rahmeh 0.

Quarters: 18-24, 36-48, 61-81, 84-84, 107-100

Letran, JRU try to sustain victory run

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	6	1
San Beda	6	1
U Batangas	5	2
Jose Rizal	3	3
Perpetual	2	4
Mapua	1	5
St. Benilde	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Colls. Gym)
12 p.m. — Mapua vs. Jose Rizal (JRU)
2 p.m. — Letran vs. Perpetual (JRU)

TWO TEAMS ON A roll collide with two squads down in the pits as the NCAA men's basketball tournament resumes today at The Arena in San Juan.

Letran is expected to continue its winning ways it meets slumping Perpetual Help at 4 p.m., while host Jose Rizal U tries to push its luck against Mapua in the 2 p.m. opener.

But fans will be on the Knights, who shook things up last week by stunning defending champion San Beda, 75-69.

And chances are the Knights won't stop there. Only over the Altas, whom they routed in the first round, 69-53. The Altas are also coming off a long layoff, losing last their previous game to the Mindoro Cardinals, 85-75, in overtime on July 15.

"It used to be easy," said Letran coach Louie Alas of the game against the Altas. "If we consider ourselves the toughest in trapping defense, we consider Perpetual one of the best in breaking the press."

Mio's Anthony Repas

PF Cyrus Baguio of La Salle's game tape, coach Rhoel (between right arrow) pulls Rivi Long back to the bench. Jai Reyes then splits to the court.

DLSU presents 'protest video'

Footage shows disputed game sequence

By Jasmine N. Payo

IN LA SALLE UNIVERSITY SUBMITTED A "protest video" to UAAP officials yesterday in hopes to claim what Alemars violated in the league rule that limits each team to play only one foreign player at any given time.

"We're just waiting for the commissioner to open communication lines with La Salle," said La Salle board representative Chuck Intengan.

Added to membership Mike Gillan of Saint Louis, acting of Santo Tomas received the tape in behalf of UAAP commissioner Ed Cordero.

La Salle, in its protest letter submitted last Saturday, said the Blue Eagles fielded foreign players Rivi Long and Zhot Latorre at the same time in the Avail elimination war by the Eagles, 80-77, in overtime.

Long is an American rookie guard, while Latorre is an Australian forward.

The "protest video," extracted from ESD-CBN's footage, included video sequence and close-motion clips of the controversial game sequence late in the first half.

Ateneo coach Norman Black said earlier that Long did not step inside the court together with Latorre since if the game backed accustomed that the 6-foot-1 Atenean will substitute Jai Reyes.

Black reckoned Reyes back in since only four players were on the court.

The referees called a technical foul on Reyes for entering the court without permission from the officials' table.

Cordero said yesterday he's in the "critical phase" of his investigation.

Technical committee head Alfie Dan added: "We're playing everything by ear. What's important is the report of the commissioner. I have individually consulted the members but previous (decided to wait) for the decision of the commissioner so that we'll be guided in our recommendation."

Cordero expects to reach a decision today or tomorrow.

Graft case poised vs Garcia, Lim

By Jane Navarro

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN has ordered the filing of graft charges against former Commissioner Jose Lina and Philippine Sports Commission Jolly Gallaga for failing to liquidate cash advances six years ago.

Ombudsman Ms. Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez said Garcia received P228,000 from the government sports agency as financial assistance during the 2001 Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Also included in a 22-page resolution signed by Gutierrez was former PSC commissioner Jacques Lim, who failed to turn over P340,250 for liquidation.

In his counter-affidavit, Garcia said he liquidated P1,291,000 on April 1, 2004 and P138,111.60 on Feb. 15, 2005.

He said PSC chief accountant Merlita Bay issued a certification proving that he had settled his financial obligations.

Gutierrez, however, said Garcia still "failed to explain the whereabouts of the amount ... in connection with his duty as commissioner."

GAMES TOMORROW
UAAP MEN
Ateneo — Ellorde (6)
Dela Cruz (10)
10:30 a.m. — FEU vs. UST
UAAP (Ateneo)
Yee (12) (13)
Cuevas (6) — 10:30 a.m.
Ateneo vs. UST (UAAP)

Streaking STI rips UMak, gains solo lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

STREAKING STI IS BLOWING away the opposition in the Metro team's basketball tournament as the University of Manila Cups.

Slapped to defense and smooth in offense, STI thrashed University of Makati, 104-57, scratching for its fourth straight win and the solo lead in the UA team field.

Erstwhile co-leader New Era suffered its first loss in four games as the hands of defending champion AMA, 78-71, in the opener.

Going up the top, however, doesn't give STI coach Vic Ventura comfort yeast.

"It's still too early to tell because there's a couple more tough games we are going to have," said Ventura. "But I think we have a learned a lot from the last season."

He was referring to STI's 10 game-winning run all the way to the finals last season, where it was unceremoniously swept by AMA.

In the AMA game, rising star Dipsipson in the unsigned, marched straight to their third consecutive victory.

Leonardo Alaar starred with 26 points, mostly in the first half, to lead the "Titans who had to quell the Hunters' 26-point large in the fourth quarter.

RP team left so much to chance

BARE EYE

Berch Trinidad

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW why the Philippine national basketball team failed the Olympic entrance test?

Don't blame the Greek referee who slapped a technical foul on the bench after the RP team, obviously blaming back from a telling-up first half, was cheering hard and won just a point behind Asian first game against Iran.

Don't blame Tibo organizers who blindly launched the Philippine men's only tough opening in the so-called Group of Death.

The Philippine team failed because it went to sea and anchor passed.

Yes, it did prepare long and hard, but the team nevertheless embarked to relive-victory without reasons.

* * *

Should Chot Reyes be blamed for claiming Bert had "done everything humanly possible" to gear up for the monumental mission?

That failed outfit could indeed be the best finished set among RP basketball contingents.

There was no questioning the determination and dedication of the players and the coaching staff.

It had the biggest names in RP basketball but, on the whole, the RP team often appeared like an aggregate who had to second-guess the answers in a score-or-go-home.

So, this is not to say the team erred in Tokushima mainly to try its luck.

The RP squad, indeed, came ready in the saying — as its coach had maintained — but, on the whole, it had to rely on an unproven game that left so much to chance.

* * *

First, it could not master a sensible offensive talent the second game.

Second, it could not muster a reliable defensive stand at any crucial point in the game.

In the game against Jordan — ultimately alone, a solid Powerhouse, was desperately pushed to go for the magical 12-plus to the final two minutes, RP betrayed it.

Just like in a lottery, the game had happened.

Of course, it took the brazen coach of the Jordan team, Nasim Hatim, to pinpoint the evident conclusion of the RP players nearing the third quarter, a predictable such spot which the Jordanians readily stitched.

So, the RP players fagged out after playing an unusually tough defense in the first half.

* * *

RP was a team with a heart, no doubt about it, and this was typified by the short, sharp, sizzling Jimmy Alapag.

On the whole, though, the team was often left without a spot. There was no visible floor leadership because, despite Alapag's heroics, he was of least a mini peacemaker trying to provide direction in his largely scattered squad.

In short, the RP team that had to result out for a dream Olympic slot must've come fully prepared in stage war in an altogether different battlefield.

* * *

OK, they had done everything humanly possible, but what had obviously been overlooked was the fact that great, winning defense gets established only through super instructions.

Not only that. Great defenders, in the tradition of Baalon and Alabastro, often had to turn into monsters whenever the situation called for it.

* * *

Other than the easy finder, trademark of most teams in the PBA, the RP squad had to resort mostly to frantic freelancing offensive to shore it up.

Who knows? The RP team could've won it if the Tokushima tournament was a freeshooting NBA-type contest.

Now, please don't buy what printed reports say that all they've got to do now is wait no other four years before RP wins in luck to the Olympics.

The RP team failed in Tokushima because it relied on a fractured basketball system that regularly churns out players fit to excel only in self-consolation round games.

We need to reread guns, again.

They've got to evolve a different basketball culture that will promote the repeated resurfacing of the most luminous men prevalent in the pre league.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible] Bldg., NIA-Do Alabastro cor. General Ricruz St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/employers have filed with the Regional office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MERCANTILE OCEAN MARINE CO. (PHILIPPINES), INC. [illegible] Makati, [illegible] Ayala Ave. cor. Makati St., Makati City	Ronnie Ma. Ronnie	Manager/Consultant	**VERAGON INTERNATIONAL VENTURES LEAD, LTD.** [illegible] Ayala Ave. Makati, ACSE Three, [illegible] Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Grace Mount	Customer Support Staff
MERCANTILE OCEAN MARINE CO. (PHILIPPINES) INC. [illegible] Makati, [illegible] Ayala Ave. cor. Makati St., Makati City	Arch. Juan Ong	Technical Consultant	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ho Wai Lai	Municipal Conference Speaking Artist (Executive Operations) Unit 1
AMAZING PHIL. TOURISM, INC. Olde Castle, [illegible] Olympic City	Jung Yeon Kwon	Asst. General Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wan Lee Yen	Municipal Conference Speaking Artist (Executive Operations) Unit 1
AMAZING PHIL. TOURISM, INC. Olde Castle, [illegible] Olympic City	Kwon Kim	General Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ly Chi Wen	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
BRANDSHIP INVESTMENT CORP. [illegible] Bldg., [illegible] Bldg. [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City	Cesario G. Sanz	Consultant for Operations	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Tan Sly Hok	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
EVENT AIR SERVICES, INC. [illegible] St., Mandaluyong City	Ir. Ir. Fuel	Consultant	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Tan Ho Phang	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
ALSEA SHELL, INC. PHILIPPINES [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jun Robert Regal	Sales Design Supervisor	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chan Weng Chee	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
LIBERTY LOADING & TRADING CO. [illegible] St., Mandaluyong City, Makati City	Rubio Tingo	Operations Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Alan Juan Kuang Hua	Sr. League Operations Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
MERSAIR NETWORK POWER (PHIL) INC. [illegible] Corp. [illegible] Ave., Makati City	Subrahmanian Subramaniyan	Managing Director	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kim Chuan Sen	Municipal Conference Speaking Artist (Executive Operations) Unit 1
AMAZING PLANET (TR. III) INC. [illegible] Bldg., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Manila, Manila	Lanagan Lin	Marketing Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kim Chong Lee	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
AMAZING PLANET (TR. III) INC. [illegible] St., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Manila, Manila	Yushin Lin	Operations Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Yeow Chew Thai	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
AMAZING PLANET (TR. III) INC. [illegible] St., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Manila, Manila	Peikai Chang	Consultant	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kim Ki Jong	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
CI GAS, INC. [illegible], Manila St., Manila, Manila	Jung Joon Suh	Assistant Marketing Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Koh Eng Lan	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
SHANG CHUAN GOOD VOICE SHOP [illegible], Manila St., Manila, Manila	Kuo An Hua	General Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Yeh Feng Lan	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
MEGAWIDE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION [illegible] Bldg., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kuribe Lee	Chinese and Korean Translator	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Fatima Cela Meng Ai	Municipal Conference Speaking Executive (Operations)
ENGLISH ACADEMY PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible] Bldg., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ah Soo Song	Asst. Manager	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chng Tit Lin	Municipal Conference Speaking Manager Unit 1
SHIN TAEKANG TRADING CORPORATION [illegible] Street Bldg., [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kim I Won Jeon Cheol	Treasurer	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kam Ye Ng	Municipal Conference Speaking Officer (Operations) Unit 1
AMBASSADOR SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible] Center, [illegible] Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Satoshi Nagayamatsu	Director of Business Process Improvement	**CAMBRIDGE, INC.** [illegible] Tordesillas Street, ACSE Three, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ko Phei Lai	Municipal Conference Speaking Executive (Operations) Unit 1

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 526-2613 & 563-9939.

ISABEL S. PARCASIEN-CACQUERA
Acting Regional Director

SPORTS

Celts get Garnett

KEVIN GARNETT: Prime acquisition

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS – KEVIN GARNETT was traded from the Minnesota Timberwolves to the Boston Celtics on Monday, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported, ending an unbelievable Celtics source.

The deal brings together all-star forward Garnett with long-time Celtics playmaker Paul Pierce and reunites guard Ray Allen to make Boston a force to contend with in the National Basketball Association after years of struggles.

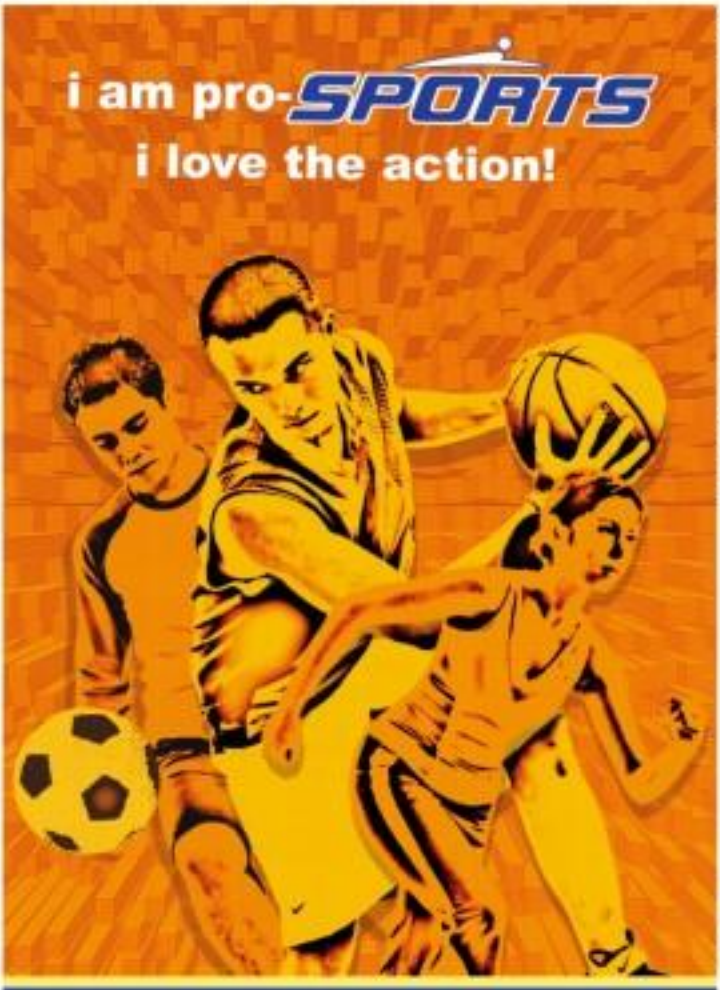
None of the three have ever been able to claim an NBA championship despite years of success on the court. And with all in their 30s, the champions pull off a title run might hinge upon all of them coming together as a team.

Garnett was traded for forwards Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes and Gerald Green, center Theo Ratliff, guard Sebastian Telfair as well as two future first rounds DRAFT picks, according to the report.

The Celtics were 24-58 last season, the NBA's second-worst record, and have not won a playoff series since 2002.

Garnett, the league MVP in 2004, spent his entire 12-year career with Minnesota. He has career averages of 20.5 points and 11.4 rebounds in 927 games. Allen has a 21.3 points career-scoring average and Pierce 23.6 points.

Garnett, 31, averaged 22.4 points and 12.8 rebounds last season. AFP



Sports exec vows 'clean' 2008 Tour

PARIS – FRENCH Sports Minister Roselyne Bachelot vowed on Monday that the 2008 Tour de France would be "clean and remastered," likely with toughened sanctions for doping, unannounced hotel room searches and other measures to avoid a repeat of this year's Tour, scarred by doping and banned by suspicion.

A day after the finale of the 94th edition of the race, in which performance-enhancing drugs appeared at times to be the sole focus, Bachelot met with Tour officials to plan a new beginning for the world's premiere cycling event.

"We have had the first stones of a collection that will give us a clean and renovated 2008 Tour," the minister said at a news conference.

Patrice Clerc, head of Amaury Sport Organisation which organises the Tour, said that next year's race will be the first step in rebuilding legitimacy for the long, arduous slogging in honour to be proven. Later Monday media outlets in France reported that Spanish rider Iban Mayo initially tested positive for the substance Jenarning EPO during a rest day in the final week of the Tour and was suspended by his Euskaltel-Euskadi team. AP

Iraqi booters fly to Dubai by private jet

BANGKOK – ASIAN CUP CHAMPIONS Iraq got a surprise upgrade on their economy-class flight tickets on Tuesday when the prime minister of the United Arab Emirates sent his own plane to pick them up.

Iraqi team officials said Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, who is also vice president and the ruler of Dubai, wanted to be the first person to greet them on their return to the Middle East.

The squad were in transit in Bangkok awaiting a scheduled flight to Amsterdam, but were told they had been invited to a special party in Dubai instead.

Sheikh Mohammed is worth $5.4 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

Iraq defied all odds to win the Asian Cup for the first time on Saturday, with Younis Mahmoud's 71st-minute header against South Korea setting off wild celebrations across the war-torn country. Reuters

SPORTSWATCH

LPC slugfest screening today

THE [illegible] starts at Lot-Phil Diliman on Aug. 23 and 24 via the annual LPC 7-slug derby. The event will be hosted [illegible] Mayor Jaime Aguilar, who will donate [illegible] Pilar City Councilor Grace Aguas. Due to the expected big number of participants [illegible] the Kiangan-based [illegible] each PCL nation, said selection managers [illegible] Screening of slugs will start today for details call [illegible] or [illegible] Standard slugs from allowed breeders groups will be accepted but subject to [illegible]

Pasay hosts Big-Boys derby

A SELECT GROUP OF [illegible] LINE UP FOR THE battle of the Big Boys 7-slug derby, a one-day showdown at Pasay City Football [illegible] Screening [illegible] manager Eric Gelo Ross, the likes of Patrick Aquino, Kenny Narvoo, Princeton Brothers, Boy Martin and Nicko Reyes. Hotly-going Tyler Tolibol, Jun Tamayo, Jose Jaime Cardino, Eric Ibo Ibarra, Willie Villarica, Obet Sior, Medel-Isagan Brothers and Jone Cagayan will partake their new batteries for the [illegible] Standard slugs will be screened by Dido Nono from Aug. 8-25. Slugs must come from NFSB, UD-SA, BDSA, SI-SAA, LSSA, Pugay, UISA and Mapa only. For info, call [illegible]

SPORTS Central
ALL THE RIGHT GEAR

IN THIS ISSUE

- Reyes out to reduce power rates /B6
- IMF: Better collection, not new taxes, needed /B7

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul S. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Excellence in Connection

Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World

Korean to invest $684M more in Subic

Jobs in shipping project to double in 2008

By Nico T. Clidoro

HANJIN HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND CONSTRUCTION (HHIC) of South Korea will infuse an additional $684 million on top of its original commitment of $1 billion into its shipping project at the Subic Bay port, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said.

The SBMA quoted HHIC director and general manager Shim Jeong Sip as saying that the new investment would finance the expansion of Hanjin's shipyard in Subic.

At present, HHIC directly employs 5,115 shipbuilding employees and an average of 5,000 construction workers.

CONTINUED ON B4

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.84 = $1

As of 5 p.m. July 31, 2007

BPI Wins 4 Marketing Awards

Bank of the Philippine Islands won 4 prestigious awards in the recently concluded 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (IMCEA) held at the Shangri-La Hotel at Makati on July 6, 2007.

BPI's two programs for the Overseas Filipino namely the BPIfinoy campaign and the Expat Pinoy program each won silver awards. The BPIfinoy campaign rebranded BPI Smart Savings Bank. BPI's prime claim for the Expat Filipinos. BPI's Expat Pinoy program, on the other hand, is a holistic program of personal financial planning and management that propagates values education, financial empowerment and self-reliance and entrepreneurship skills as the same time marketing BPI's core remittance product.

Shown in photo (L to R) are J.J. Calleo, Chairman of the 2nd IMCEA Advisory Board and the Board of Judges; BPI officers Daniel Manuel Nine Jesus Reyes, Manager Daniel Martinez, Manager Alfonso Bellosa Senior Vice President Ade Clemente, Assistant Vice President Anton Almeda, Vice President Andy Cua, and Delfin Gonzalez, Chief Financial Officer of Globe and member of the Board of Judges.

BPI Family Savings Bank also won two silver awards for its Get Started on Tomorrow campaign. Get Started on Tomorrow is the bi-media launch campaign for BPI Family Savings Bank's Secured and Consumer Loan products. The theme line, "Get Started on Tomorrow" emphasizes BPI Family Savings Bank's thrust as the bank that helps the Filipino Family get started on its dream or achieve a better life through superior product offerings. The Deposit, Auto and Housing Loan products of BPI Family Savings Bank likewise won for their outstanding campaigns.

Megaworld acquires Iloilo property for ₱1.2B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Hector P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

PROPERTY FIRM MEGAWORLD Corp. has submitted a firm offer to the Department of Finance to buy the 54.5-hectare old Iloilo airport in Mandurriao, Iloilo City, for ₱1.2 billion in cash.

Finance Undersecretary John Philip Ilcella, head of the bids and awards committee, said they have endorsed Megaworld's offer to the Privatization Council as it met the ₱1.2-billion minimum price set by the government for the airport property. The council is expected to decide on the offer tomorrow.

Megaworld said that upon acceptance of its offer and the closing of the deal, it would apply with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) for a special economic zone license for a project that aims to transform the old Iloilo airport into a new business district.

Megaworld envisions its project to lure major business process outsourcing (BPO) companies considered to eat up shop in the Visayas region.

In addition to office buildings for the BPO industry, the project will host educational facilities geared to provide value-added training to equip prospective employees with the necessary skills required by call centers and other BPO businesses that will be based in the Megaworld complex.

The re-opened site is less than four kilometers from the downtown area of Iloilo City.

Bids in the center of commerce and education in the Western Visayas region. It is home to six universities: The University of the Philippines Iloilo, San Agustin University, University of Iloilo, West Visayas State University-Iloilo, Saint Paul University and Central Philippine University.

Megaworld, the property arm of tycoon Andrew Tan, is the pioneer developer of urban information technology or IBPG parks in the country with its Peza-accredited Eastwood City Cyberbelt.

The CyberPark is a conversion of Eastwood City, a premier live-work-play project in Quezon City launched in 1997. Megaworld is replicating its initial success in Eastwood City in other parts of Metro Manila, particularly the Newport City at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City and McKinley Hill at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

Megaworld plans to build around 500,000 square meters of BPO office space across different locations not only in Metro Manila but also in key centers outside the capital region.

Alliance Global Group Inc., which holds 40-percent in Megaworld, has a P32.8-billion war chest as of the end of the first half.

The government's sale of the old Iloilo property earlier lured three property giants—Robinsons Land Corp. of the Gokongwei family, Ayala Properties Inc. (which is owned 40.9 percent by Megaworld) and SM Prime Holdings Inc. of mall tycoon Henry Sy.

The bidding for the airport in the second quarter failed because all the bid prices were below the ₱1.2-billion floor price set by the DoF. The government then conducted a re-evaluation to unlock the hidden value from Megaworld. Robinson's Land was the only other company that submitted a proposal to buy the property for ₱968 million.

New business district planned

US firm invests $10M in Philweb

By Riza T. Olchondra

PHILWEB CORP., WHICH OWNS and runs the operation of an Internet casino business on behalf of the government, announced that it would sell $10 million worth of shares to Pasadena Capital Management LLC.

Philweb said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, "The proposed placement of the [shares] is priced at 5.82 centavos a share, which is the average closing price of [Philweb] shares during the last 10 trading days prior to July 31, 2007, (the closing date for the transaction)."

Philweb has a market value of about ₱9.41 billion. It is 27-percent owned by eSUN Inc., the information and communications technology subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the nation's biggest company by market value.

Pasadena, based in California, manages $16 billion in equity capital for institutions and high net worth individuals.

The investments will support Philweb's expansion plans.

Philweb has reported a 151-percent surge in profit to ₱40 million and a 73-percent growth in sales to ₱94.3 million in the first quarter of 2007.

The company attributed the revenue surge to increased transactions from its Internet-based sports betting and casino businesses.

Cash raised is still to ₱93.8 million from ₱16.7 million due to the increase in session and share overhead and additional investments needed for the development of new gaming products, the company said.

Despite the higher costs, unaudited earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization grew to ₱44.46 million from ₱9.82 million.

TKC Steel to offer new shares

PUBLICLY LISTED TKC STEEL CORP. OF Dr. Th family plans to raise up to ₱2.4 billion from an additional offering of shares in the fourth quarter to finance its expansion.

Officials said in a briefing yesterday that the estimated proceeds from the offering would range between ₱1.8 billion and ₱2.4 billion although the number of shares and the price have yet to be fixed.

TKC Steel has appointed First Metro Investment Corp. as its financial adviser for the exercise.

TKC Steel has controlling interests in Texcare Steelworks and China-based JX Zhongshan Steel.

Brunei Steelworks has the biggest billet-manufacturing facility in the Philippines with a capacity of 300,000 metric tons a year. It was acquired in 2005 to operate the former National Steel Corp.'s billet making plant in Iligan City.

As of 2006, Texcare Steelworks enjoyed a 30-percent share of the total steel manufacturing market.

"One of the opportunities we see is the great disparity in the supply and demand for construction materials. The country is still dependent on imports. There is an opportunity for us to grow because we want to supplant imports," TKC Steel president Anthony Blanco said. —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Philrealty out of rehab by '09

PHILIPPINE REALTY AND HOLDINGS Corp., the developer of the Philippine Stock Exchange's headquarters in Ortigas City, is ready to complete its rehabilitation in two years, company president Jaime Ricardo Bautista announced.

Following the company's stockholders' meeting, Bautista said the completion of the rehabilitation would be spurred by the company's 2.8-hectare condominium project in Brea Manila, Quezon City, dubbed Philrealty Residences.

Work on Andrea Skyline is targeted to start in the second half of this year, with completion of the project expected by 2009.

Andrea Skyline, Philrealty's flagship residential project in Quezon City was started in 1996 but was suspended in 2000 in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. Andrea Skyline is a 52-story tower that will offer 350 residential condominium units.

The Andrea Skyline project would need about ₱600 million to finish.

"This would signal our return to normalcy, that we are developing again instead of just negotiating with creditors," Bautista added.

Financing required to fund the project includes a ₱550-million loan being negotiated with a local bank, and ₱300 million representing cash from sales of its joint-venture residential project dubbed the Icon in Fort Bonifacio and the sale of shares in A. Soriano Co.

To help partly settle P600 million worth of outstanding loans, Philrealty plans to enter into negotiations with creditors to convert half into equity. This will represent about 6 percent to the company.

Philrealty made a breakthrough in its rehabilitation program when it signed an agreement with its biggest creditor group in June 2006, which resolved the sale of its mortgaged shares in International Exchange Bank (Iberbk). —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Stocks up 0.9% on bargain-hunting

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.9-PERCENT higher yesterday but quick profit-taking limited the upside amid continuing economic-recovery and possible rewrite rounds in the United States, dealers said.

The composite index added 33.73 points to 3,581.20 but was well off the day's high of 3,643.70.

The broader all-share index rose 16.95 points to 2,260.96.

Decliners led gainers 82 to 68, with 54 stocks unchanged.

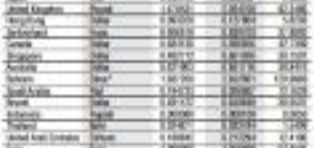
Volume was 3.7 billion shares worth ₱6.2 billion.

"The market started out strong with investors scooping up bargains from the previous declines but it weakened at the end of the session. Obviously, investors are still nervous about potential wild price swings," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

He foresees that trading would remain volatile in the near term as the market looks for a more comfortable support level.

Lester Ilet of Inglite Capital Development Corp. said the key composite index could build a strong base at 3,500 points but noted that the market was "still jittery. We can expect investors to hang on to the US housing and credit concerns."

The day's top gainers included property stocks Ayala Land and top-75 consumer at ₱37 while Megaworld rose 1.6 centavos to ₱3.80. AFP



Napocor posts Q1 budget surplus of ₱10.6B

Biggest contributor among 14 GOCCs monitored

By Michelle V Ramos

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION'S first-quarter budget surplus of ₱10.64 billion, the highest registered by a government-owned and controlled corporation.

This was contained in a report on the financial standing of the 14 GOCCs monitored by the Department of Finance.

The report showed National Transmission Corp. posted the second biggest surplus of ₱4.150 billion, followed by the National Food Authority with ₱3.3 billion.

The surpluses posted by these three state firms enabled the 14 GOCCs to post a collective net budget surplus of ₱19.9 billion during the quarter.

Finance officials said the financial performances of Napocor and Transco could be attributed to efforts to improve management of receivables and trigger disparities in expenditures.

The GOCCs, especially Napocor, was ordered in 2004 to put finances in order and reduce financial dependence on the national government.

At the time of the IMA, finance officials said it was uncertain whether the agency would be able to maintain its surplus position for the entire year. They said the MRs first-quarter performance can be attributed largely to reduced cost for purposes during the period.

The IMF had been putting the biggest dollars among the GOCCs as of the first quarter of this year.

The IMA said the deficits were unavoidable because it was its mandate to ensure stable supply of affordable rice in the country. To fulfill this mandate, the NFA said it had to import rice at prevailing world market prices and sell at the government-fixed price.

The other GOCCs and their surpluses in the first quarter were: Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (₱3.467 billion); Philippine National Oil Co. (₱1.207 billion); National Electrification Administration (₱480 million); Philippine Ports Authority (₱321.6 million); Philippine Economic Zone Authority (₱131 million); and Local Water Utilities Administration

FOR SALE
JATROPHA'S SEEDS & SEEDLINGS
Ph. call: (02) 926-7936 (Quezon City)
or (0922) 883-1851
Ask for: Ely Buracane or Jolly Supino

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES & ASSETS SAFE & SECURE
FOCUS CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

TRAVEL WHEELCHAIR
MINI-SIZE TRAVEL WHEELCHAIR
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SECURE your office from FRAUD & THEFT!
Access Control & Timekeeping Devices
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
P 7,900
P 9,700
P 12,500
P 19,000
P 24,000

Rapide
AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS
Nobody beats Rapide's value. Nobody
4 + 1
Any 4 Oil Changes gets you 1 absolutely FREE. Always.
Need we say more?
Call 899-4472 to 74 for details
Rapide
P 249 ONLY
BRAKE FLUID FLUSHING
Rapide
P 600 ONLY
ALIGNMENT SERVICE

LAS VEGAS

THE BEST GETS BETTER!
THE NEW CARENS
MORE POWER MILEAGE SAVINGS
CRDi DIESEL ENGINE

GOULDS PUMPS

More than 150 years globally, 40 YEARS in the Philippines

By Joel F. Nigos

Water pump brands are not often recognized but when it comes to products that provide reliable performance, only one water pump name stands out: Goulds Pumps.

From its humble beginnings in a warehouse in Makati during the late sixties to a Pesa booster in 1998, Goulds Pumps indeed has garnered customer trust of water pumps in the Philippines. The company is celebrating 40 years of fruitful presence in the country.

Nicholas Cheng, sales director for Southeast Asia, shares Goulds Pumps are mainly fast progressed together with the economy.

Not so long ago, he noted, pumps were sold door to door by its sales team just to get customers. It has changed a lot since then. Goulds Pumps are now distributed more sophisticatedly and its schmooze modus: pressure to have morphed into a modern and world-class manufacturing facility, the only major US pump manufacturer to have an assembly facility in the Philippines.

From supplying only the local water pumps requirement, the firm now also assembles base for the Asia-Pacific region including Australia. This is courtesy of its large 6,500 sq. m. plant located in Alabang Light Industrial Complex in Cabuyao City, Laguna.

More importantly, Goulds Pumps is the only water pump brand that has become a household name that is synonymous with durability and quality.

Nicholas Cheng

Jeffrey Estrella

Road to success

But the road to fame for the market leader is not in every way is well paved one. "We have challenges," relates Cheng. "But these challenges have inspired us and helped us to persevere, to always provide the best for the people who have placed their faith in us."

Cheng notes Goulds Pumps' deep history with the people of the Philippines. And with what they consider as their most important resources, the company was able to build a reputation for reliability and excellence.

"We consider our employees as a very vital resource. Hiring and investing the best in the business and only ensures that our company continues to grow but also we are able to maintain the quality of our products," Cheng states.

"Another important source of help is our extensive distribution network. They have witnessed the highs and lows of our organization. We work hand to make sure that people can get a Goulds when they want one," he adds.

For Jeffrey Estrella, Goulds Pumps (Phils) Inc. country sales manager, "We are privileged to be the only multinational pump company to have an assembly plant in the Philippines. Certainly this empowers and realizing opportunity allow us to have an industry leading workforce behind every pump that we sell in the market. In addition, ITT Corporation is the global leader in pumps, and this also provides us access to the latest in engineering practices to ensure the reliability and durability of our products."

With 40 years of providing only quality service and market leadership, Cheng says that they hope their experience would further enhance the local water pump industry.

"We aim to capitalize on our world-class facility to further strengthen our leadership position with strong technical expertise and capability to provide quick and effective solutions for the country's local water needs," shares Cheng.

"A commodity would be helpless without water. Industry needs water in its daily operations. As the country is vying to industrialize and attract more investments, there is a strong need to enhance their facilities and readily available. Goulds Pumps is trying to make available products to fit every known application. Users help not only in achieving customers growth but more importantly manage the very important natural resource," he stresses.

ITT Corporation is the parent company of Goulds Pumps. A reliance part of the global economy and a engineer for people who want to change the world with new ideas, ITT is also a multi-industrial company with worldwide presence that has strong core positions in attractive core growth markets. It is also a company with robust financial results and positioned for long-term, sustainable performance in the future.

40th anniversary promo

Though not known to undertake many promotional campaigns in the past, Goulds Pumps wanted to make its 40th anniversary a truly memorable one with "Kwits A Pilipino with Goulds Pumps Lucky Draw Promotion."

"This is our way of saying 'Thank You' to our loyal customers who have been patronizing our products for generations. We are truly excited about this promotion as it is the first of its kind for any water company in the Philippines," Cheng relates.

"This is a four-month promotional campaign for Jet Pumps and GS Submersible Pumps with Motors. Consumers are entitled to one coupon per product purchased which is the perforated portion of the warranty card. We are giving away LCD TV, desktop PC, digital cameras, cell phones, MP3 players, among others," explains Estrella.

Meeting challenges

Cheng considers being No. 1 in the country as their foremost challenge. "We recognize that competition are eyeing our pie and improving all the time. We need to stay ahead by always meeting customers' needs, improving our customer service support and developing even better products."

"We must continuously reinvent ourselves so as to maintain our position in the market. We should always raise the bar in coming out with superior and proven products that can be used in almost any application required by our customers," adds Estrella.

Estrella notes that customers surely pay attention to their water pumps but in long as they are running, "That's only we can say we've been a silent partner in providing the water requirements of our customers, whether residential, buildings or industry throughout the years. And we would like our customers to be assured that they have pumps that are industry leaders in reliability and durability."

"Goulds Pumps is the faithful servant ever ready to perform when needed," echoes Cheng. And more than that, I want our customers to think that they've got a Goulds Pumps every time they turn the tap or shower on. That they are getting reliable performance for their water supply not just today but for many years to come," he promises.

Cheng adds that they envision Goulds Pumps to become a part of every Filipino's life, that they get the opportunity to experience its quality and dependability up for his part, Estrella shares that they want to continue "our solid position in the minds of the consuming public as the premier pump brand in the market and to still be No. 1 in the Philippines in the next 40 years."

1962 Goulds Warehouse (Makati City)

1973 Goulds Head Office (Makati City)

ITT Goulds Pumps at a glance

Goulds Pumps

Goulds Pumps has a long legacy of ingenuity, craftsmanship and pride that was founded in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848 by enterprising company that stands behind its products, a name you can depend on and a trusted brand the world over.

Seabury A. Gould purchased the interests of Edward Mynderse and R. C. Sibley in Stowell, Wyndcote and Co. and the firm became Downie and Co. The following year brought the Great Gold Rush of the Sierra Mines. Goulds cast its first all-iron pump that year. The first all-metal pump in the world was cast and assembled in the little cinder shop of Green and Gold Sewers, Seneca Falls, New York. The idea for it was sponsored by Seabury A. Gould himself. Goulds' first promoter.

In 1869, the name of the company was changed from Downie and Co. to Goulds Manufacturing Co.

At the turn of the 19th century, Seabury Gould II was president and Goulds Manufacturing Co. transferred to a new location covering 78 acres of land.

Seymour Auld Gould, the grandson of the founder was the last family member to serve in the management of the company. He served the longest as president from 1908 to 1964. During this time the company's name was changed to Goulds Pumps, Inc. The company's ownership was also transferred from a family ownership public at this time.

In mid-1977, ITT Industries, a worldwide leader in advanced fluid transfer technology, defense, electronics and aerospace acquired the whole of Goulds Pumps making ITT the world's largest pump company.

The union of the two entities brought about a new industry giant: ITT Industries-Goulds Pumps, which is also the first company of its kind to become a major water, wastewater and distribution facility in the Philippines.

ITT Corporation

ITT Corporation is a global engineering and manufacturing company with leading positions in the markets it serves, generating 2006 sales of $7.8 billion. ITT is the world's premier supplier of pumps, systems and services to water, control and treat water and other fluids. The company is a major supplier of sophisticated military defense systems, and provides advanced engineering and operational services to a broad range of government agencies. ITT also produces electrical connectors used in telecommunications, computing, aerospace and industrial applications. Further, ITT makes industrial components for a number of other markets, including transportation, construction and aerospace. Based in White Plains, New York, ITT employs approximately 40,000 people around the world.

In addition to the New York Stock Exchange, ITT's common stock is traded on the Paris, London, and Frankfurt exchanges.

The company reports its financial results under three reporting segments: Fluid Technology, Defense Electronics & Services, and Motion & Flow Control. The three segments highlight the diversity and balance of the company's portfolio, and hence reflect each of the businesses that will be going forward.

"We must continuously reinvent ourselves so as to maintain our position in the market. We should always raise the bar in coming out with superior and proven products that can be used in almost any application required by our customers"

Centrifugal JET Pumps

JE Series | J+ Series | WPJ Series | SJ Series

Submersible Pumps

SE Series with Centripro Motor | VHP Series

Centrifugal Pumps in Cast Iron

SSH Series | SSV Series

ITT

CELEBRATING

You're a Winner with GOULDS PUMPS

Lucky Draw Promotion

40 years!

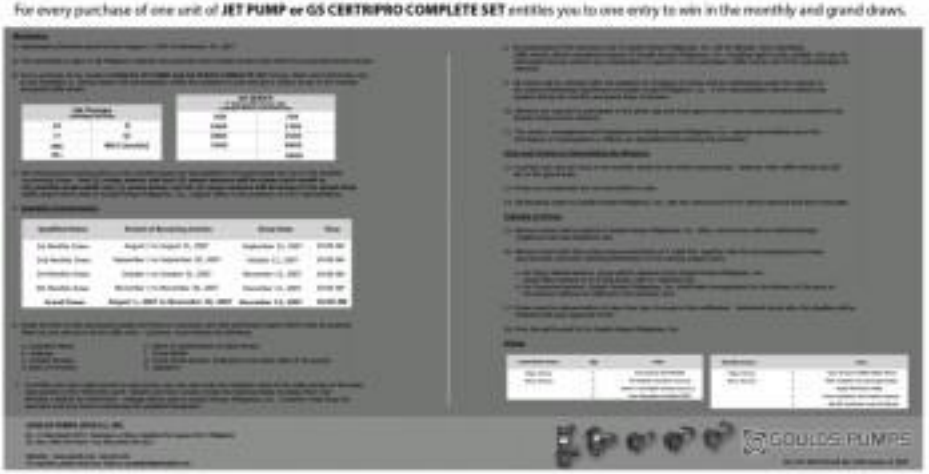
IN THE PHILIPPINES!

Grand Raffle Prizes

Monthly Raffle Prizes

SM Gift Certificate Worth P5,000.00

For every purchase of one unit of **JET PUMP or GS CERTRIPRO COMPLETE SET** entitles you to one entry to win in the monthly and grand draws.



Reyes out to reduce power rates

New energy czar sees need to amend Epira to bring down electricity costs

By Abigail L. Ho

SEEKING TO DEFT HIS OFFice, newly installed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes vowed to make the reduction in electricity rates one of his main priorities while at the helm of the Department of Energy.

In his acceptance speech during yesterday's turnover ceremony, he emphasized the need to amend RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, to bring power rates down.

"We can expect a surge of investments in the country's infrastructure, with the recent passage of the Omnibus Act of 2006," Reyes said.

The post of Energy secretary is Reyes' fourth cabinet position over the last six years, having served as head of the departments of National Defense, Interior and Local Government, and Environment and Natural Resources.

Critics are saying that he has never had any stellar accomplishments in any of his previous Cabinet posts and that the more fun that he is still being appointed was proof that President Macapagal-Arroyo was just out to pay her political debts.

Reyes made light of this in his speech, however.

"I'm only in my fourth year and my fourth stint in six years ... this may already qualify for some citation in the Guinness Book of World Records," he said, which the crowd of nearly a hundred met with laughter.

"But like a good soldier, I'll go wherever the President thinks I can best serve the nation.

"I've found each of the stops so far uniquely interesting. Each did not only mean different responsibilities and challenges, but also a profound surveying of different sets of people, which were mostly a genuine pleasure to work with."

REYES

Reyes has spent 40 of his 62 years in government—30 in the military and six in the cabinet.

And along comes the electric PhUV

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS Manufacturers Association of the Philippines yesterday announced it has teamed up with a Guangzhou-based group on an initiative to locally produce the electric jeepney.

Brought in from Guangzhou, China, two units of the 12-seat e-jeepney are being tested in Makati and four others in Baguio City.

The group, Green Automobile Independent Power Producers (GAIPP), plans to bring in a fleet of 44 more units, each of which could run for 130 kilometers (km) at a maximum speed of 40 km per hour when charged in an ordinary wall outlet for 8 to 10 hours.

MVMAP vice president Pio Edward raul Filipino said private makers have thrown their support behind GAIPP's efforts to make the e-jeepney project available here and abroad.

"PMA provide GAIPP with technical assistance, such as product design, improvement and development," said the vice president. In turn, up with a locally assembled version of the e-jeepney that would help make the project economically viable and acceptable to the airport market," Mr.raul said.

She added that GAIPP would "fold in" the e-jeepney into its own Philippine Utility Vehicle (PhUV) Program so that to assemble, local parts suppliers and buyers would also receive the same benefits to be given the PhUV Program.

"We will craft it the e-PhUV, and this would complement our other projects, such as the PhUV itself, public utility jeepney rehousing program and our One-Brand project," Mr.raul said.

Insurers vs DOTC

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honorato C. General

PUBLISHING BUSINESS AND REINsurers Association Inc. (Pura), the umbrella organization of nonlife insurance companies, has petitioned a Makati court for contempt involving and prohibition, with prayer for issuance of a temporary restraining order and writ of preliminary injunction.

The respondents are: The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and Land Transportation Office (LTO), represented by Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and the Insurance Commission (IC), represented by Commissioner Evangeline Clemente-Escobido.

Court involvement

The court involvement stems from the DOTC's Department Order No. 2007-26, dated last July 03 which, after one runs through the verbiage, will set up the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) as sole provider of Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance policies.

There are six causes of action. First, DO 2007-26 is an ultra vires (beyond the statutory) act of the DOTC/LTO and is an invalid exercise of administrative power or subordinate legislation. Under the Insurance Code, the DOTC/LTO is only authorized to require, prior to registration of motor vehicles, presentation and filing of an insurance policy or cash/surety bond from the motor vehicle owner. The presentation and filing of a policy containing documents that the LTO cannot be made in an electronic form or electronically. In effect, DO 2007-26 amends the Insurance Code without congressional legislation and Presidential approval.

Second, the DO violates the Administrative Code of 1987 because interested parties, the public and CTPL insurance companies were not given an opportunity to submit their views in a public hearing prior to the issuance of the DO.

Also, the DO imposes so-called insurer-underwriting fees on insurance companies which will ostensibly be passed on to motor vehicle owners, thereby raising the cost of the insurance policy.

Third, the DO is (a) an oppressive, confiscatory and invalid exercise of police power, and (b) the method employed is arbitrary and irrelevant to the purposes of the law. The DO will put insurance companies out of business even if:

- Those companies have been doing CTPL business successfully for over 20 years;
- Those companies have no damage suits pending;
- Those companies have acquired a vested right to operate the CTPL business.

Fourth, the DO encroaches on the powers and functions of the IC and the Insurance Commissioner. The DOTC/LTO's function is limited to registration or recording, enrolling, inserting in an official register of motor vehicles. The function of the IC it is to regulate and supervise the transaction of insurance business.

Fifth, the DO violates the Insurance Code, and is unreasonable, arbitrary and unconstitutional because the DOTC and LTO will be operating like an insurance company or, at least, as an insurance agent or broker, or, even as a reinsurance broker, without qualifying for the necessary license or Certificate of Authority from the IC.

Sixth, the DO is oppressive, confiscatory and unwarrantedly discriminatory because it violates the due process clause of the Constitution and the provisions are in restraint of trade. The DO deprives insurance companies (and, I may add, the insurance agents and brokers) of their property without due process of law by taking over the CTPL business. From the standpoint of the motor vehicle owner, he is deprived of the fruits of a free and open market.

This is represented in Court by the high-powered lawyer Bernie Law Thio of law firm Antonio "Tony" Bernas. I have a case of beer which says Tony is on the way to an open-and-shut victory.

Any takers?

ADB: RP may take 23 years to equal Thailand

By Dorris L. Luce

THE PHILIPPINES RANKS IN THE MIDDLE OF a list of Asian countries surveyed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in terms of overall livability—being neither expensive nor cheap—a report released on Tuesday revealed.

More importantly, the study also revealed that it would take the Philippines an estimated 23 years to catch up with Thailand, which leads Asia in terms of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) at the present growth rate of 2.7 percent.

At this rate, it would also take the country 23 years to match the per capita GDP level presently exhibited by Thailand, according to ADB chief economist Ifzal Ali.

According to the ADB report, the Philippines ranks 11th in a group of 23 Asian countries—including Japan—using the price level index, which aims to standardize the measurement of costs throughout the region, using the Hong Kong dollar as a benchmark.

However, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India—the two economic powerhouses in developing Asia and the Pacific—are lagging in terms of economic well-being and living standards of their populations, the study showed.

According to the study, PRC and India account for 54 percent of the total GDP of the economies participating in the study.

However, a completely different picture emerges if the size of the economies is adjusted by population. Rather than dominate the rankings, the PRC and India drop to 10th and 18th positions, respectively, out of the 23 economies participating in the ICP GDP comparisons.

Similarly, the PRC ranks 11th and India ranks 13th when economies are compared based on "actual final consumption of households," (AFCH) a better measure of economic well-being of a population.

The AFCH is a measure of what households actually consume irrespective of what they purchase and what they are supplied for individual use by the government. The economic well-being of a population is obtained by comparing household consumption expenditure per capita.

The five economies that top the list are Hong Kong, China ($$$$28,205) per capita); Taiwan ($$$$19,196); Singapore ($$$$36,706); Brunei Darussalam ($$$$$1,744); and Macau, China ($$$$$7,655).

The five economies that are at the bottom of the survey are Nepal, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.

A person living in the PRC spends an average of only $$$$11,822 per year, while an Indian consumes an average of $$$$3,246 per year.

Korean to invest $684M more in Subic freeport

Front page B1

With its expansion plans, the company expects to increase the number of direct jobs it will generate to 13,000 by next year and to 15,800 by 2011. It had originally projected to employ only 7,000 for its Subic project.

The company's expansion plans are also expected to translate into even more indirect jobs resulting from the increased activities and number of SFIC's supply chain and support industries. These indirect jobs are conservatively estimated to reach between 19,000 and 20,000.

In other port projects, the SBMA is set to turn over the operation and management of the new container terminal 1 in Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. within this month.

Also nearing completion is the new container terminal 2, which is more than 90 percent completed as of mid-June. Its privatization process is scheduled to begin in October.

When fully operational, the two new port facilities will increase the capacity of the Port of Subic from an 600,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) then 900,000 TEUs.

The operations of the new terminals are also expected to boost the business in the movement of goods and services between Subic and the Clark-Tarlac area to facilitate with the completion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in phases, starting this year.

As the other top investments projects, said, big AMOC were Redondo Peninsula Energy Inc. with $123 million; KT Global Subic Inc. with $123 million; and Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. with $89.33 million.

The rest of the top 10 were Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. ($50 million), Shin Young's Corp. ($9.37 million), Sky-point Hospital and Medical Center Inc. ($6 million), Nicills Food Airways Commercial Corp. ($5.15 million), Orient Pearl Investment and Management Ltd. ($1.43 million), and Cheng and Cook Solutions Inc. ($1.39 million).

ON A CALESA RIDE

Stephan Skirl (right) and Mark Jones (2nd from right) of Citibank data Pacific Global Consumer Group, appear to be enjoying their ride on a horse-drawn cart, Balitad down in the Citibank Savings branch that recently opened at the Primera Area in Pasig City.

Gov't outstanding debt reached ₱3.819T in May

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S outstanding debt hit P3.819 trillion as of end-May, dropping by 2.1 percent from the P3.9 trillion recorded the previous month, as the strengthening of the peso helped trim the amount of foreign currency-denominated liabilities.

The latest debt figure was also 4.9 percent lower than the P4.017 trillion recorded in the same month last year.

If the debt figure were to be divided among the population of 88.7 million projected this year, each Filipino would have a share of P43,055.24 in the national government's liabilities.

This was an improvement from the P43,960 recorded in April.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that of the latest debt figure, P1.871 trillion was composed of foreign-currency denominated debt, while the bigger share of P2.140 trillion was accounted for by debts incurred domestically.

The amount of foreign obligations was down 1.8 percent from the 1.754 billion recorded in April. Domestic debt, on the other hand, was 1.5 percent higher than the month-ago figure.

The BTr also reported that, on top of the outstanding debt, contingent liabilities of the national government hit P520.9 billion in April, down 2.9 percent from the P545.9 billion recorded as of April.

Contingent debt is the total amount of outstanding liabilities by government-owned and -controlled corporations, and government financial institutions that have sovereign guarantees. Because of the guarantee seen, these liabilities would be part of the national government's debts if the borrowers default on loans.

The government's outstanding debt is a result of the borrowings it undertakes each year to accommodate expenditure requirements that cannot be covered by its revenues.

The government has been operating on a budget deficit since 1998, a year after a financial crisis swept Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines.

Finance officials explained that the outstanding debt will conceivably rise on a year-on-year basis as long as there is a budget deficit to plug. They added, however, that appreciation of the peso would temper the year-on-year increase, or even result in a substantial month-on-month drop in the outstanding debt.

The deficits posted every year since 1998 was blamed largely on inefficiency in tax collection and corruption, and partly on the crisis that led to the drop in corporate earnings and eventually to tax collection.

Fiscal authorities, however, said the government was already on its way to curtail controlling the growth of its debt. With the help of tax measures, the government aspires the budget deficit to drop to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

The government made a remarkable reduction in deficit last year, when it slashed the budget gap from the P146.6 billion posted in 2005.

The government has included the increase in the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent, the expanded coverage of the VAT, and the increase in excise tax rates on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Another concerns on whether the government would remain this year its fiscal achievements last year have been raised, following the huge tax collection shortfall leading to the launching of the deficit ceiling in the first half.

The government pursued a P11 billion deficit ceiling early in June, higher than the P11.3 billion limit officially set for the period.

IMF: Better collection, not new taxes, needed

De Rato says improving tax efficiency is key to preserving gains from VAT

By Doris L. Luza

THE PHILIPPINES MAY NOT NEED NEW taxes to shore up the state coffers, but the Arroyo administration needs to focus on improving revenue collections to ensure the sustainability of the country's fiscal recovery, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

Speaking to business leaders in Makati City on Tuesday, IMF managing director Rodrigo de Rato stressed that improving tax efficiency was the key to preserving the government gains from the enactment of the Enhanced Value-Added Tax (EVAT) law that helped stave off a fiscal crisis.

"The Philippines needs no new taxes, but it needs more people to pay taxes," he said.

De Rato's statement negated the advertising of the 185-nation multilateral funding agency's envoys urging the government to consider a fresh round of tax measures.

The IMF chief's comments came after the government announced a string of failures in meeting its revenue goals in recent months. President Macapagal-Arroyo has since replaced the head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Finance department has vowed to double its collection efforts.

De Rato also urged the government to review its policies in granting tax exemptions with an eye on reducing them and refocusing measures on helping the sectors that would be affected by the removal of those benefits.

He also praised the government's program to invest more in addressing its fiscal problems but said that "much more needs to be done."

De Rato also took note of the large inflows of foreign currency into the country courtesy of the OFWs dollar sent home by expatriate Filipinos, saying this was a positive aspect of globalization.

"These remittances represent about 11 percent of your GDP (gross domestic product)," he said.

The central bank expects overseas remittances to hit $13 billion this year, as more highly paid and skilled Filipinos find work abroad.

The IMF chief said the government should help overcome inefficiency by encouraging greater competition in the banking system, that would, in turn, lead to lower remittance costs.

Asked about the prevailing volatility in global financial markets, De Rato acknowledged that there were problems in the US subprime mortgage industry, especially in the way investors had been assessing risks in the past.

He said, however, that the volatility would likely be short lived as it was happening during a period of strong global growth.

"We see in the midst of a re-rating and repricing of market risk," he said. "It's turbulence."

De Rato said the situation does not present a "systemic risk" especially since the problems of the sub-prime lending market in the US are nowhere near the scale of the savings and loan crisis of the early 1990s.

STARAdDITION

SAN_LGN152 RSDL LOT

SOUTHPOINT

Cabuyao & Sta. Rosa, Laguna

(Beside Mapua (Malayan) University)

LOT AREA	MAL SID PRICE
180 sqm.	P 419,904
218 sqm.	P 508,550
292 sqm.	P 681,178
355 sqm.	P 828,144
374 sqm.	P 872,467

FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.,
MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
TEL. NOS.: (02) 334-9888 | (02) 334-9725 • CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-5588533

Tired of using iron building to build to distribute your products?
We can help you.
JOB

Gov't to sell retail bonds to state firms

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY said it would sell today Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

On the 12th anniversary Republic Day, the BTr decided to allow state-owned firms to buy RTBs over the counter after the regular offering of the bonds to individual investors ended yesterday.

First Metro Investment Corp., one of the issue managers for the RTBs, said the government was targeting to raise P21 billion from the issue, with the counter sale of the retail bonds.

The government sold P18.9 billion worth of RTBs during the regular offer period that ended yesterday. This was much more than the P6 billion initially targeted by the government.

In an over-the-counter purchase, an investor buys government securities directly from the BTr and not from the banks that serve as dealers of the Treasury bills and bonds. Over the counter sale of government securities happens only when the government decides to sell more after the regular offering period.

The RTB auction and the decision to issue RTBs was aimed at encouraging individuals to invest. Unlike regular government securities, RTBs cater to small investors, with the minimum investment requirement set at only P5,000.

The Treasury earlier said banks were required to allocate at least 50 percent of the RTBs they were selling to individual or small investors.

This said the considerable interest rate interest in RTBs was partly due to attractive interest rates. Investments in the five-year RTBs earn an interest of 7.125 percent per year, while money placed in three-year RTBs earns an interest of 6.875 percent.

During a similar measure in November, the government was able to raise only P8.3 billion. The five-year bonds then fetched only 5.875 percent, which somewhat reflected a weaker demand.

Money supply growth eased further in June

THE GROWTH OF CASH IN THE financial system continued to decline in June as the monetary authority stepped up operations to take full effect, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

In a press statement, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said domestic liquidity growth slowed further to 18.4 percent in June from 20.5 percent in May.

The data for June marks the first time that domestic liquidity slowed to below 20 percent since the 19.5 percent recorded in December 2006, when the effects of large capital inflows began to threaten the inflation scenario.

"The liquidity trend is in line with the BSP's expectation of the cumulative impact of the new monetary measures implemented in early May and supports the BSP's benign inflation outlook," Tetangco said.

On a month-on-month basis, seasonally adjusted domestic liquidity expanded by 1.2 percent in June after contracting by 1.1 percent in May.

"M3[broad money]as well as some base effects are seen to have contributed to the slowdown in domestic liquidity during the period," Tetangco said, adding in the special deposit accounts (SDA) as plans by the central bank. The opening of the SDA was interpreted by the market as a de facto tightening of monetary policy.

The BSP has been struggling to contain liquidity growth brought about by huge inflows of portfolio investments as well as record levels of dollar remittances from overseas Filipinos.

It said the growth of both onshore foreign peso and net domestic assets of depository corporations slowed down in June to 21.1 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, from 34.4 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively, in the previous month. Reuters

Napocor posts Q1 ...

Postsigdal B1

(P80.9 million).

The GOP earlier said entered before, including favorable interest rates, also helped improve the financial performance of some GOCCs.

Make-owned firms that posted budget deficits to the first three months were the following: National Irrigation Administration (-P952 million), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (-P75.4.4 million), Light Rail Transit Authority (-P595.1 million), National Housing Authority (-P57.0.6 million), National Investment Co. (-P7.89 million), Home Guaranty Corp. (-P45.3 million), and Philippine Mounted Battalion (-P7.2 million).

The budget performance of the GOCCs (only part of the fiscal position of the national government. The BOF had reported that the consolidated public sector fiscal position as of the first quarter stood at a surplus of P6.2 billion.

CHINABANK

www.chinabank.ph

CHINA BANKING CORPORATION

A full-service, universal bank serving you thru 133 branches and 233 ATMs nationwide

Celebrating 86 years of service since 1920

Your success is our business

MEMBER PDIC (Maximum insurance deposit for each depositor - P250,000.00)

Norkis launches another alternative mode of transport

MORRIS executives Manuel Albor Jr. (standing) and Bro Canovas with their company's latest creation

Text and photos by Charles F. Bukay

IT LOOKS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A dune buggy and a golf cart. But aside looking to it may seem, its creator, the Norkis Race Wheel Group, believes it will one day be a common sight in villages, golf courses, resorts and private communities.

"The MTT Spider is compact enough to fit narrow streets and drives silently—it's genuine zero-emission—so it won't make so much noise in the neighborhood [as compared to Chrysler] and thanks to it's small engine, it uses much of the fuel, whose cost has continually increased over the years," explained Manuel Albor Jr., Norkis Race Wheel Group managing head.

Albor explained that with the MTT Spider's 660 cc engine displacement, three-cylinder engine (turbo), it could run 18 to 21 kilometers on a liter of gasoline.

"The engine is sturdy enough to carry seven passengers or its equivalent cargo. Its open land-style layout also invites access to transportation," he added. "Its small size and maneuverability also make it ideal for use in congested areas. Even those around in the back (third row) could ride comfortably," Albor said.

Ingenuity

Indeed the MTT Spider is a product of ingenuity that has defined the types of vehicles that the Norkis Group of Companies has developed through the years.

"Perseverance and ingenuity, these are what define our company. In our desire to help uplift the lives of our struggling countrymen, we have come up with different variations of alternative vehicles," said Norkis's Quixxambing Jr., Norkis Group chair.

ODD-LOOKING is may may seem, Morris Four Wheel Group believes MTT Spider's off-road dip be common in villages, golf courses, resorts and areas in your neighborhood.

Starting in the '80s, when the company began distributing Suzuki's brand of motorcycles, Quixxambing noted that in order to sell more motorcycles, he must do something to boost its appeal.

This prompted him to tinker with the Samurai Vitara by attaching it to a pedicab (which was then pulled by people). This venture gave birth to the tricycle that soon became the source of livelihood throughout the country.

Alternative transport

After this success, Quixxambing started, in 1996, the development of the Multicab as an alternative transportation and recreation vehicle.

The Multicab was actually developed from used Japanese cars that were brought into the country, he explained.

"Taking each company's 4R process—recycling, reengineering, reconditioning and refurbishing—we have modified these Suzuki and Daihatsu vehicles to give rise to a newly styled light 4-wheeled for passengers and personal use," Quixxambing said.

Then Multicabs, which became the symbol for low-cost transport. Some become an inspiration for other models that Norkis Four Wheel Group has developed or is developing including the MTT Spider.

"After [owning] subcompact cars— Lancia Fiori, Maserati and Top Cats—we decided to come up with another vehicle that people could use as a community transport as for personal errands. Even barangay officers [would appreciate the practicality of driving an MTT Spider while patrolling the neighborhood]," Albor said.

He added that with a price tag of P382,000 (manual) and P471,000 (automatic), the MTT is definitely a practical choice.

Chasing sports cars for breakfast

DRIVING AROUND THE METROPOLIS in clear days, exotic car sightings are getting more and more common. Recent news says that one need into the seven digit range to splurge for a Ferrari, a weekday rush hour Manila traffic. Weekends at the glorious mall parking lots look like wealthy collectors' garages. And last week, it was the turn of Time zero cars a Petite Outing on the Small Luxus Expressway!

This lucky handful of Filipinos, who got to drive some of the world' most sought-after and exquisite racetrack cars, got to run a reverse photo-finish through. While moddlerdom who can't tell an automobile from a radiator drive along in their bull market toys, Modelsby Cars is a serious group of customers who have valued their opportunity learning the finesse and the finesse of automotive status over the past 40 years.

In the beginning, there was the Manila Sports Car Club (MSCC), which accordingly to the club's users yet, was already founded under the wing of the UP Diliman campus way, way back in 1967. Today the MSCC continues its members' passion for automobiles with the trademarks of their history intact: the camaraderie of the road, the camaraderie of preservation is also strong in their group. Classic examples from the '60s and '70s fill their group's routine rights along side practically-routine interpretations of performances.

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

First glimpse

Tagging along with the MSCC for his July 29 breakfast run to Splendido Gold and Country Club, some part of the mystique behind this notable group of enthusiasts became clearer. Cars for the early morning call time at the newly opened BLEU Petrol, 7 a.m. only at the parking lot of the Tagaytay scenic that I caught my first glimpse of their remarkable century. Dread is a car that I've had the urge I did in the early 80s but never had the money to afford. Finally, I'd finally get to behold it.

True up was a red 1986 Mazaerdin that I had to avoid stalking in the parking lot as I gingerly neared my Japanese auto-rig right next to the stunning beauty. Later that morning, a guy friend decided to park on the other side of my car. Never have the factory hood scoops looked more fierce as did our looked scorpions.

Next row of slots

In the next row of slots were more cars from the golden era of American muscle car, an early model Chevy Corvette right up next to a Mustang Shelby GT500 with the trademark blue stripe on. Wimbledon White. Displacement every three reasons, all of a sudden my four cylinders and a turbo seemed puny next the old-school V8s.

Okay, from the R, I did not baby-but-talked every one—never were was a talking gaggle of Autlebusiness's finest experts. Several 911s from the air-cooled years all the way to the current hood-cooled 997 models joined the collection that evening, but I think I'm never wrong, a good metallic yellow Lamborghini sat at the steep closest to the clubhouse. Sadly it is my that I spent most of my time in the golf clubhouse's parking lot that morning. Steaming cars gently framed by equally seeking surroundings don't happen very often.

Cars taking off

By and morning, it was time to leave and 16 promptly roared breakfast. As the MSCC started to leave for the show, likely quick, hop home. I stood with the hosts for the day: Chef Ed Quirante and Jake president and CEO Katrina Associates. From a vantage point we watched each and every car pull out, one by one, in order of arrival. We just listened to cars taking off. It felt like a great day had ended and it wasn't even 11 in the morning yet.

My segment in the three stories just started to be in the form of posters, magazines and television shows hosted by Penny Isidoro Isaac with English accents. But all that changed a couple of months ago, when the MSCC cars took their glorious big silenced chest metal, a picturesque scene and great company.

Safety with elegance

IF I WERE TO BE ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE Mercedes-Benz E-200 in three words, this would be my answer: safety with elegance.

Here's why: While the E-200 is offered in three different trims: Classic, Elegance and Avantgarde—they all have the same advanced safety features as standard equipment. So when you get the E-200 Elegance, you're getting the same safety equipment as "The E-Class the generation" you get safety with style.

Leave the Classic to the unimaginative and the Avantgarde to the sporty. The Elegance is the perfect fit for the luxury driver in me. I'll take the Elegance anytime if I had the money. While the S-Class is Mercedes-Benz's automotive flagship sedan and the epitome of large, luxurious motoring, the E-Class is the quintessential executive sedan just as competent with its distinct interior appointments and exacting edge safety equipment.

The E-Class debuted very much in 1947 and sold over 15 million units worldwide in the last 60 years. Understandably, the 2007 model six are the seventh generation E-Class.

Enhance

You'll know why it was so successful once you see the E-200 Elegance. The 17-spoke light alloy 16-inch wheels and fine chrome details on the exterior enhance the refreshed styling of the car's architecture.

The E-200 Elegance's interior does has sufficient large leather seats, but I noticed inlays and fine chrome trim on the dash, center console and door panels. The front seats are power adjustable and can be set to memorize two favorite seating settings. The leather-wrapped steering wheel can be adjusted for rake and reach. All the interior materials are supports and contributes to the ambience of tastefully understated elegance as well as optimum comfort for the occupants.

To make motoring even more comfortable, a Thermatic automatic climate control system allows the driver and passengers to adjust temperature levels individually to my convenience. There is provision for up to six CD changer and two cassette decks as standard equipment.

Safety

If you prefer driving quietly into the sound system, the E-200's engine is well-muffled to shutter lost noise levels inside the car. Although the 2.0-liter, M4 powerplant packs under-acted emotion, that normal is enough to the cues of car lovers. The E-200's gasoline engine, mated to a 5-speed automatic transmission with a manual selector lever (for the brave to optimist), produces 184 hp/5,500 rpm and 300 Nm/2,000 to 3,000 rpm.

Accurate

Adequate but not exhilarating? On the other hand, it is accurate and responsive when cornering and good linear stability aside from excellent comfort and control due to the supremely classic and brakes of its latest Comand package. The E-200 may not be as quick from idle as an inline-6 BMW, but it gathers speed soon enough to elicit passing power.

Moreover, as market pointed out, the E-200 Elegance's motor is equipped with an upper-valley pack age, all-new for the seventh generation E-Class. Mercedes-Benz has summed the old dominion between active and passive safety technologies to integrate the two. The E-Class comes with its recognizable hood and pair of compressor front hub and rear hub systems designed to prevent accidents, while Pre-Safe hub and Post-Safe provide protection in case of an unavoidable accident.

Pre-Safe systems alert the driver to potential hazards with visual and audible signals as critical situations. The Attention Assist plays a major role in front-function provides the car from rolling away when stopped on a hill, air brakes and drying function removes any wet weather driving and its adaptive brake lights alert other road users by flashing if the driver brakes very hard, quickly or suddenly and/or if the ABS is activated. When the car comes to a standstill, the hazard warning lights are activated.

Pre-Safe systems anticipates hazards and take precautionary safety measures quickly, such as reversible belt tensioners and automatic closure of the side windows and sunroof.

Post-accident

Post-Safe protects the car's occupants and the car itself when an accident is unavoidable. Included here are the high-strength passenger safety cell, the airbags and the seat belts with belt tensioners, adaptive front airbags, side airbags and head airbags. Apart preventing Post-Fire head restraints for the driver and front passenger seats.

Post-Safe helps prevent further deterioration of the situation after an accident occurs. The fuel supply is automatically cut off, the hazard warning lights are automatically activated and the doors unlock automatically so that occupants can be rescued faster. Aside from all these, there are Crash Assist, Electronic Stability Program (ESP) with acceleration skid control, speed-sensitive power steering, intelligent headlamps, tire pressure loss warning system, rain-sensing wipers and 3 power sockets. Truly comprehensive safety equipment.

Bottom line

The E-200 Elegance deserves every penny of its P4.080 million price tag. Launched in Manila in August 2006, last March 2007 it was awarded the Best Elite Automobile of the Year trophy by the Car Asian Group Inc. (CAG).

TODAY'S JEEPNEY STENCIL Adults are just kids who earn money.

Shell supports first RP entry to the World Solar Challenge

TOGETHER WITH OTHER ALternative energy advocates, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. gave support to the development of Sinag, the country's first entry in the World Solar Challenge in Australia to be held from Oct. 21 to 28.

Sinag, the solar car's six-square-meter top surface will be covered by 8 x 8 monocrystalline solar cells. A maximum of 1,000 solar cells, which will provide the car to undertake a 3,000 kilometer journey from Darwin, situated in the northern territory of Australia. The solar cells consist of an efficiency of 23.5 percent, the highest in its class, and will be the centerpiece of the Sinag car.

Ceremonial turnover

Pilipinas Shell vice president for external affairs Roberto Ramos and sustainable development manager Miguel Dominguez together with officials and representatives from sponsor companies witnessed the ceremonial turnover of solar cells by then Philippine Olympic committee (POC) chief operations Greg Hechanova to Dr. La Salle University-Manila Chancellor Br. Carmelito Quebengco. The ceremony was held recently at the Shell Station at Taft Avenue, Manila, inside the De La Salle University campus on Taft Avenue, Manila.

The Philippine participation to the World Solar Challenge was brought about by the partnership of like-minded organizations such as Pilipinas Shell, Mind Philippines, Philippine Business for the Environment, Philippine Airlines and Petron, which formed the Philippine Solar Car Challenge Foundation, led by former Energy Secretary Vicente Perez.

In his speech, Perez said, "Sinag is a solid proof of Filipino capability to put together a solar car powered vehicle. Second, it shows a unique partnership between the academe and the private sector to do a project that matters the use of renewable energy such as the solar power."

40-man team

The 40-man team behind Sinag car is composed of Electronics and Communications Engineering students and faculty members from De La Salle University-Manila and Mapua Institute of Technology. The students are determined to complete the solar-powered vehicle in June 2007 and use it to start-to-finish to compete with several 26 participating engineering countries from all over the world.

"We take pride in this project. This project important to our students' education," he explained. "There must no hesitation on our part to take on the challenge of building a solar-powered car," Quebengco said.

Sinag solar car technical team head and ME faculty member Rene Hernandez said, "Sinag will cling across the Australian outback at a speed of no less than 100 kph. We have been working on it for more and satisfy our meeting with more partners. We are ready to serve as team more determining to support, to the Solar Challenge. We will race from Darwin to Adelaide this October."

Jerby Sinag is an exciting partnership because it showcases the synergy between the business industry and the academe and exhibiting example of shared commitment to explore renewable sources of energy for the country and the world.

CHETORIAL

Prius road test yields good results

LAWYER ADRIAN CHETORIAL JR. IS senior personal of the Incubbed and Project Office of the Philippines, recently participated in the test-drive of the new environment-friendly hybrid car Toyota Prius.

Participants of numerous international automotive awards, Toyota Prius is known for its fuel economy and advanced technology. It is powered using a combination of electric and conventional internal combustion engines. The car's capability to operate efficiently in accelerations if it signal usually reduces the amount of pollution and maximizes fuel efficiency.

Positive results

The road test of Toyota Prius, as conducted by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and participated in by Chetorial and other prominent personalities in government, the business community and media, yielded positive results.

Chetorial, an advocate of environmental consciousness and consumer welfare, recommended the Toyota Prius for its low consumption capabilities, and Toyota for the company's efforts to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

Edsa Cesar D. Hangaway
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
MOTORING
Text or your feedback: inquirer one <space> motoring <space> message to 2301 (Globe/TM)
FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2007

THE BLUE Ford's most pronounced design lines with its front fascia looking like the letter "X." The design standard follows the Iosis concept Ford came up with at the Geneva Motor Show.

DIESEL IN FOCUS

Ford surprises market with its own TDCi sedan

By Teve S. Salazar

THIS NEWS, IN A way, blindsides us. Who would have expected Ford to tinker with diesel engine technology for their sedans in the Philippines? But it did, and with relatively quiet manner, the new Focus 2-liter, six-speed manual turbocharged commonrail direct injection (Duratorq TDCi Sport) has just been introduced to the local motoring media. The big question now is will the local market take notice?

Signs tend to favor Ford, for one, the demand for diesel vehicles in the Philippines has been steadily increasing, thanks to the relatively cleaner diesel technology brought about by the common rail direct injection configuration (CRDI).

Another good sign is that the foreign press thinkers—generally regarded as "buzz cluster" and more discerning in terms of automotive preferences than the rest of the world—has also been indulging in alpha (basic gasoline) power, if you want to avoid it's hard to diesel for the past several years. Now, 78 percent of the passenger cars in that region are diesel-fed.

Final sign

The final, and probably the most crucial, sign to entice many buyers to get into the Focus diesel is the price. This Focus manages to give a lot passenger car segment, dominated by gasoline powered sedans such as the Honda Civic) a run for their money.

The high-end Focus TDCi 6-speed manual comes in P656,000 (cheaper than a top-end Civic at P1,089,000 high-end Civic 2.0, automatic trailers, the base one P1,117 million); PHP1,000 for CVT) manual transmission.

The "well-rounded" pricing is as follows: the Focus' entry level four door 1.6-liter manual at P595,000; the 1.8 automatic transmission five-door at P646,000; the 1.6 Ghia at P646,000; and the Sport 5-door 2-liter P698,000. Sport Ghia, Ghia's 1.8 MT is P777,000 and 1.8 automatic is P806,000.

Insofar as vehicle performance is concerned, the Focus TDCi (unsupported as having a European heritage, its diesel engine—a Ford Di—is by some engine in Europe) is patently outlined by its manufacturer as having the best of both worlds...in terms of acceleration and fuel economy. The highest "mileage" for that class has been claim the Civic, which generates 160 PS torque). Ford, in its website, declares that the Focus TDCi drives would get almost more-or-much with its 136 bhp.

New entry level

In the midst of the Focus TDCi introduction, though, has been the announcement that production for the Focus 1.6 (gasoline) has ceased, leaving the 1.8 (gasoline variant) the model's entry level. Ford's campaign for the Focus has etched from the 1.8 to the 1.6 entry level.

Divine Tsang Hard, Group Philippines assistant vice president for passenger cars, promotion said incentive a "fuel-saving" performance from the Focus TDCi. "We need to see what high on touch to the speed and to the power that you like. We also tried up using less fuel," Tsang said, given that it's a TDCi engine, Ford stresses that fuel combustion efficiency is optimized. (A road test for japanese listening to is the offing to see those claims, including the fuel consumption claim of 23.7 km per liter range...figures based on European test. In the Philippines there's no industry-wide average).

When asked about the timing of the Focus TDCi introduction, Tsang declined the persistent and inconsistent pricing fluctuations on gasoline-powered units. Ford did not declare outright that economy-awareness of the average Filipino motorist, the time was ripe for diesel-variety entries in.

High mileage Focus

Tsang also assured that the Focus TDCi's engine, as early as a year ago, has been calibrated according to the diesel fuel quality in the Philippines.

"We've got a high mileage vehicle that we've been owning for 12 months now and so far, at the 40,000 km mark, we've really been enjoying great results. In fact, the higher the mileage, the lower the fuel economy is. We really wouldn't have considered that vehicle if we had less than standard results," Tsang said.

The Focus TDCi comes in with manual transmission, the latest for drivers to get a level of the accelerator and fuel economy, he added.

Cost of ownership

Tsang also explained that the Focus TDCi may prove to be more economical in the long-term when it comes to cost of ownership. "A diesel is more economical than gasoline cars. But the payback comes in only in months.

The efficient fuel consumption and the price of diesel against gasoline all combine to savings in months onward.

Regular maintenance items are basically the same for diesel and gasoline engines, Tsang added. But the diesel engine does dictate engines would require slightly more.

The Focus TDCi will be assembled in the Ford Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant. Sta Rosa Pandin, the Ranch Ford assembly is available in Ford's offices Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia. It will have its debut here afterward Thailand.

So, will this local motoring market buy into the 20 enjoying diesel car? It's simply too early to tell. But we've seen those Blue icon of popping heads to the Ford dealerships with increasing observing and listening intently at the nuts of the TDCi. That time, they won't be covering their noses as the first rush of the engines. There won't be the pervasive smoke from the gas, but that doesn't mean it hasn't fired.

ORGANIZED BY: The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc.
The First Philippine International Motor Show
CAMPI
Shifting to Higher Gear
August 9 - 12, 2007
World Trade Center Metro Manila
(Media & Trade only) - August 9 | 10am - 12nn
Public | Aug. 9 | 12nn - 9pm | Aug. 10-11 | 10am - 9pm | Aug. 12 | 10am - 7pm
New Vehicle Introductions | Concept Vehicles
1st Transport Design Competition | Special "Auto Madness Time" Auto Financing rate by BPI Family Savings Bank | Free Technical & Advocacy Seminars by CAMPI | Die-Cast & Car Collectors' Display & Competition
Automobile Exhibit | Vehicle Test Drive | Daily Raffle
Free Shuttle Service pick-up at MK Sun Plaza, SM Mall of Asia and the Bellot Philippine Plaza
The Ultimate Motor Show of the Year
Audi
Chevrolet
Honda
Hyundai
Isuzu
Kia Motors
Mitsubishi Motors
Nissan
Porsche
Toyota
Volvo
Top Gear

It's Raining giveaways at Yokohama!
YOKOHAMA
GEOLANDAR A/T-S G91A
FREE large umbrella when you buy a pair of Advan tires.
FREE regular umbrella when you buy a pair of Yokohama passenger car tires or light truck tires.
Promo period: August 1 to September 30, 2007

All SET for the Little League Softball World Series

LIFESTYLE

Lito Chiu Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pavor

25U

Bat girls

Text by Bianca Consunji
25U Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

HANGING OUT WITH THE Philippine-Asia Pacific girls' softball team is like getting caught in a giant slumber party.

The girls here along in turns or three, giggle, talk about their favorite singers, tease one another about school, and complain about their advancing years (believe it or not, one team member seems to be her age or 12 years old instead of 13!).

It's rather difficult to imagine these bubbly girls as serious, world-class players, but the fact is they will soon be off in Portland, Oregon, USA, to compete in the Little League Softball World Series.

"That's a really cool outing you have there," one of them observes as a teammate swings a bat. Another lifts a bat for measure and puts it down with a grimace. "Too heavy for me," she says. "I won't be able to hit the ball out."

The girls are either 12 or 13 years old. Some are softball veterans, with two members having been playing for as long as eight years. The others have been into the sport for just a couple of years. However, there are no divas in the group, and no one tries to grandstand, ahhh—nice.

"The team is very focused," says manager Joey Mendoza. "They took the whole process seriously. Some the nationals in Batangas to the regionals against Guam."

The team practices five days a week, adds Mendoza, and there are no disciplinary problems regarding attendance or training with them.

Coach is Alexis Estoquia, a senior at the University of the Philippines Diliman and a member of both the UP and the Philippine softball teams.

"Sometimes, our girls play against the UP team for practice. They lose, but they play well enough to give college students a good fight," Mendoza says.

Big challenge

According to him, their big challenge is to show the public that these wee little girls are athletes who can play at a serious level.

"Softball isn't that popular in the Philippines, so we would like people to see that we have very good athletes competing in major competitions around the world," he says. "Our team is very young, but they're eager to prove they can handle pressure."

While in the US Aug. 9-13 for the softball World Series, the girls will also be acting as ambassadors for Gawad Kalinga, a service-oriented organization focused on building homes for the needy.

"We appreciated GK and and we would like to help donate our support for their cause from people overseas," says Mendoza.

In addition to playing softball and endorsing GK, the girls will also be visiting Disneyland and Universal Studios during their stay in the US.

"Sana may bagong gimik sa paglo-load"

Posible 'yan dahil sa bawat pag-load mo using GCash, may **10% rebate** ka na!

GCASH

1 REGISTER

Way register via text:
Text REG <space> A-digit PIN <space> mother's maiden name <space> first name <space> last name <space> address
Send to 2882

2 CONVERT YOUR CASH TO GCASH

Go to any accredited GCash Partner Center:
• Globe Telecom Business Centers
• Convenience Payments and Service Centers
• Mall Department Stores
• Selected cyber banks
• Selected forex/money remittances
• Bancnet ATMs
• JPI Express Mobile (NEW)*
Call 2882 for FREE to find the GCash Partner Center nearest you
* For Globe SMS only

3 BUY LOAD USING GCASH

Just text
LOAD <space> AMOUNT <space> 4-DIGIT PIN and send to 2882

Send to 2882501 (1234567)

Receive no any P1 transaction fee may 10% REBATE ka pa!

AVAILABLE AMOUNTS: P10.00 • P20 • P30 • P40 • P50 • P100 • P200 • P300 • P500

Call 2882 for FREE using your Globe or TM cellphone for more info.

naks, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Inez Diaz, 12

Toni Ondrik, 13

Bella Montoya, 12

Robby Resto, 13

Batgirls

Mei Uy, 13

Juliana Manalata Ocampo, 12

Jassy Singh, 13

Daniella Cruz, 13

Czar Buenviaje, 13

Chrissie Domingo, 13

Hollywood, here they come

Homepage B4

...is not a one-man show, it's a collaboration of...
...[illegible]," stated Mary.

And while most reality TV shows seem to entertain, "Hollywood Boot Camp" also aims to serve another purpose and that is for the viewers to pick up a thing or two regarding filmmaking.

To top it off I know, the hospitals got to be in the filmmaking capital of the world and experience how it's really done, Hollywood-style.

A reality TV season that is entertaining and informative at the same time and does not resort to catfights ("Boot Camp" is cool to be the highest Hollywood program produced in the Philippines!), sure don't mean being reality-breaking then this type of reality TV should watch it.

E-mail the author at mark_rubio@yahoo.com

Lyriel Gonzales, 13

When shopping is *everything*

Get ready for the ultimate shopping extravaganza at the **Hong Kong Shopping Festival** from **30 June** to **31 August, 2007**. This year's Hong Kong Shopping Festival is more exciting than ever, as it coincides with a host of celebrations marking the **10th Anniversary** of the establishment of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China. There's numerous attractions and theme parks for families with kids, like Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong Disneyland, and Ocean Park, the new home for the giant pandas cubs "Le Le" and "Ying Ying". You can also enjoy the park's annual Summer Splash featuring exciting water games and attractive fun for all. For more information, visit **DiscoverHongKong.com**

Visit Hong Kong Now 3D/2N fm USD259*

- Roundtrip Economy Class air ticket
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers by seat-in coach
- Hotel accommodation on room only basis
- Other value-added benefits offered by individual hotels

CATHAY PACIFIC

Plus: Get a chance to win a Hong Kong package with a US$1000 credit on card to your Visa card, if you fly Cathay Pacific and use your Visa card (minimum of HK$1000) in Hong Kong during the Hong Kong Shopping Festival period.** Visit www.visa.com.hk for more details.

VISA

*Economy Conditions:

For more details, contact your travel agent or Cathay Pacific Reservation offices: Manila (02) 757-1888, Cebu (032) 231-3747 and Davao (082) 222-4900 or see www.cathaypacific.ph

THE SIGHT: Studios of Bigfoot Entertainment's "Hollywood Boot Camp"

Hollywood, here they come

New reality TV show tries to discover the next great filmmaker

By Nikko Mark M. Sablan
2007 Correspondent

IT'S SAFE TO SAY that reality TV is still very much alive—and has no plan stopping any time soon.

In the summer, the first seasons of "Philippine Idol" and "Philippines' Next Top Model" have already been concluded, "Pinoy Big Brother" continues to gain fans in its second season, "Mowe," an original Philippine production looking for Billy Crawford's backup dancers, has just ended its search, and there there is also that much-hyped about new reality-based model search for a giant fashion brand.

The country has been looking for the next big things in the fields of music, dance and modeling, and with Bigfoot Entertainment's "Hollywood Boot Camp," it's time to meet the most promising people in the field of filmmaking.

This big 11, at 8:30 p.m., QTV 11 will air "Hollywood Boot Camp," the reality TV show that brings eight young Filipinos to Los Angeles, USA for one more as a lifetime chance to participate in the filming of a Hollywood film. As reader is a reads prizes or a film development package for the winner to use in making his or her own film, and a two-year contract with Bigfoot Entertainment, with guaranteed work on the company's (continued on) film projects.

The show is pretty similar to most reality TV competitions in the sense that apart from the eventual challenges in every episode and the cool prizes at the end of the show, one contestant leaves the confines each episode—but in great cinematic style.

According to Bigfoot Entertainment CEO Rory Andrews, one of the first challenges in the show is for the contestants to make a short film on how they would want to die. Every time someone gets the axe, his or her short-lived career is played at the end of that episode.

It took Rory and the rest of Bigfoot Entertainments one month to search the videotape entries from auditions and film arrangements before they finalized the list of eight eligible aspiring filmmakers to join the show. These contestants were flown to Los Angeles, USA, and housed in an apartment that was not like a boot camp.

All eight contestants have different interests, skills and levels of experience when it comes to filmmaking.

Applicants

Apple Pamble is a 22-year-old editor. Arvin Trinidad is an actor, 29 years old. Oscar Iglesias is a student. Genevieve "Bianca" Belmonte is a familiar name in film and television production. 21-year-old Lawrence "Chinoy" Bolero is an established graphic designer in his native Cebu. Miguel "Michael Meerkat" Vergara says he is a non-practicing lawyer. Randolph "Randy" Ticalos has interests enthusiasts he all things film, and Steven Harpel is a 23-year-old actor, host and musician.

Along with the diversity of the personalities and expertise of the contestants, the challenges in the show are also various and extensive: writing, directing, cinematography, editing, production design and acting—were the routes of the show of the forthcoming Big Bear Entertainment horror film, "Midnight Movie," helmed by up and coming director Jack Mendez.

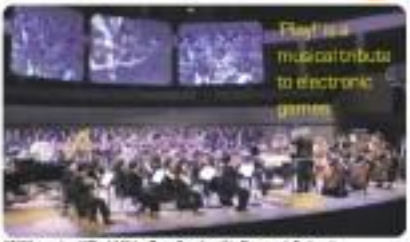
Of course, comparisons with the reality competition series, "On the List," are inevitable, but as far as Rory is concerned, "Hollywood Boot Camp" is totally different because it focuses on learning and actual filmmaking, not just the end product.

What probably makes "Hollywood Boot Camp" different from your typical reality TV competition is how it turns out to will be appealing and viewer-friendly—minus all the catfights, camaraderie and backstabbing. Key components here is the course of the whole show, the contestants ended up as one big group of friends instead of individuals competing with each other.

The aspiring filmmakers also realized that while moving up the ladder is a good thing, team work is important in the industry. "Filmmaking

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

Ode to video games



ASIAN premier of "Play! A Video Game Symphony" in Singapore's Esplanade.

By Fran Kashjak

NOBUO UEMATSU ON MP3 is beautiful, but on full orchestra and choir, his music is delirious.

The Japanese composer's work was among the highlights of "Play! A Video Game Symphony," a video game music concert, held for the first time in Singapore and in Asia.

We were lucky to score good seats for this 1 of three sold-out shows at Esplanade during the 10th anniversary of the Singapore Arts Festival. Only two shows had been scheduled but another was added after tickets sold quickly and more reservations came in.

"Play!" was an unlikely concert, considering the repertoire, its composers, and the gamers and fans of video game music who could not afford to miss excitement for the show.

CONTINUED ON PAGE D4

Get a chance to win 10 million Rewards points in Citibank's 10 MILLION REWARDS RAFFLE. The promo that rewards and rewards and keeps on rewarding.

Every time you make a P1,000 single-receipt purchase using your Citibank Credit Card, you earn a raffle entry that gives you the chance to win the ultimate reward – 10 million Rewards points! Or if you are a Shell-Citibank, Mercury Drug-Citibank, Citibank Clear or Citibank Cash Back cardholder, you get a chance to win P1 million in cash credited to your Citibank Credit Card.

To qualify, register ONCE by texting CITIrapacard& (16)(17 CREDIT CARD NUMBER to 2366. Registration is FREE.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995 9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph. Don't have a Citibank Credit Card? Call 423 3000.

10 MILLION Rewards Raffle

citibank let's get it done

CITIBANK is a registered service mark of Citigroup Inc. LET'S GET IT DONE is a service mark of Citigroup Inc.

Century Tuna Culinary Meet Year 5

the PLEASURES of TUNA

Come and join the fun as we witness the exciting showcase of culinary talents on AUGUST 11 and 12, 2007, GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER

AMATEUR FOOD ENTHUSIAST
The Ultimate Century Tuna Iliew Showdown
1-Member Team Competition
Grand Prize: P 20,000.00 cash

PARENT & CHILD FOOD ENTHUSIASTS
Creative Century Tuna Sandwich Making
2-Member Team Competition of
1 Child and 1 Parent
Grand Prize: P 10,000.00 cash

HRM STUDENTS
The Great Century Tuna Trio Challenge (Salad, Sandwich and Pasta)
3-Member Team Competition of
2 Students and 1 Adviser
Grand Prize:
P 30,000.00 cash for the team plus
P 20,000.00 cash for the school.

PROFESSIONALS
Century Tuna true Chef Bam Plate
5-Member Team Competition of
1 Chef and 1 Assistant
Grand Prize: P 40,000.00 cash

Century Tuna true Chef Bam Plate
5-Member Team Competition of
1 Chef and 1 Assistant
Grand Prize: P 40,000.00 cash

Our Event Partners

SOLA Terfel

Longing for layers

Text by Bianca Cuenca
2007 Correspondent
Photos by Jim Gaius Pascasio

IT'S FACE IT...IT JUST doesn't pay to buy a pile of trendy clothes in the middle of the season. Although the Philippine fashion scene is not as dynamic as that of other countries, more often than not, outrageously trendy clothes are discarded in a matter of months. Thus, many people seek to the safer side of fashion, choosing basic pieces and pulling on never-never pieces.

While accessories are a good way to play with fashion, you can also opt to layer your clothes in order to make an outfit more alive. Take note that you cannot just throw on a heap of clothes and step out the door, because there are several factors to consider when layering clothes. The weather, for instance, is a factor that simply cannot be ignored.

In the Philippines, where the weather alternates between sweltering heat and warm, piling on jeans, sweaters, coats, and coats is not an option because you want to risk looking like an inflatable or a sunburned. Instead, look for soft, airy, lightweight pieces that won't become a source of sweat. Throw them together. Look for items such as tank tops, tube tops, buttoned dresses, and shirts. Mix loose tops with tighter ones, so you don't end up looking like a roll of cotton or a bag lady.

For instance, you can wear a form-fitting halter top over a thigh-length shirt, while a tight long-sleeved shirt can be worn under regular baby tees. Wear brightly colored tank tops of different sizes and tie the top have in a knot, or pin it with a brooch on one side. On colder days, throw on a scarf or a cardigan over a tank top or shirt. You can also wear a cardigan with a basic slip dress, and sling a scarf around your neck.

Basic tops

Want to look for basic tops to add to your collection? T-Box, a local-ite haven clothing line from Istanbul, is a good place for you to visit. The store has all sorts of basic tees, tank tops, scarves and dresses, plus a wide selection of underwear and men's clothes. While there are a lot of stores that also offer basic clothing, the fuss thing about T-Box is their innovative packaging—basic items are compressed into little packages and packed with one-size fits-all. This is great for travelers who want to bring all the essentials in a tiny package (especially if you're bringing a lot of pasalubong to your relatives and need the extra space).

T-Box is all about the basics—don't look for crazy prints, crazy colors and wild styles that may do have all the ingredients for fashion-savvy souls; when you're up for a little experimentation, you'll definitely end up with something far from boring.

E-mail the author at bianca.cuenca@yahoo.com

T-Box offers dressy but not too dressy choices

SHRINK-WRAP packaging makes traveling a cinch

T-BOX customer getting into the spirit of layering

Shar

Young essayists

By Bianca Cuenca
2007 Correspondent

CAN ONE PERSON CH[illegible] world?

This was the question the the "What's your starfish a competition sought to answer submitted their entries on Sa zine, the official publication Young Leaders Alliance for shared from the Apata Yo Congress).

Both the name of the na the theme of the competition from "The Starfish," an inspir a man's boy who comes by the sea after finding hundre stranded on the shore. Despi tor's observations ("but ther starfish on this beach than y ones before the morning. But one person to make a differ boy continued throwing the s in the water, saying "I made to that one," after throwing more starfish.

Finalists

Participants of the compe asked to share how they too ences in their own little ways h story. From hundreds of [illegible]

Drive

By Mark Christian Portado
Contributor

IT IS SAID THAT THE WORL to the south-side will extend earth. But with today's head ing disastrous global dynam the young be blasted for sooner, for taking into their the cause of the environmen standing a more viable alter scenes?

A group of mechanical students of De La Salle U must no longer. With the h mission and the country's b various, they are developin games first solar car which ca the World Solar Challenge this October.

They've even been joining r ents. They are just out to p Philippines can stand shou day with other progressive c reshaping solar power as we rally safe alternative energy

Appropriately enough, they named the car Sinag, mea bright new day that will com native energy is fully realiz nine and senior students worked day and night for th year. The entire cast together fo

The students were divide groups to oversee the succe for car's related parts: the electrical, and shell teams.

The mechanical team ha steps and fabricate all of th components like steering, br axles and weight balancing.

Electrical components, tions and race strategy are of the electrical team.

Meanwhile, the shell team of designing and assembl aerodynamic shell.

While they major in mec steering, the students said t prepared them for the challe to read about car aerodynam ter and books," said Jose Ig Ilo Quia, leader of the shell t

Before Sinag, the boy year-old friend in crash, an

Jolly in Aparri

By Nilo Mark M. Sablan
2007 Correspondent

IN APARRI, IT USED TO BE THAT people literally went to great lengths for their fast food. Whenever they craved for a Jolly Hotdog or a Chickenjoy, they would hop on a bus and travel for two hours to Tuguegarao where the nearest Jollibee branch was located.

Finally, fast food a truly fast food in Aparri because Jollibee has just opened its latest branch there, rounding to seven members of stores to 600. And now Aparri residents don't have to spend two hours on the road to get their Jollibee fix. With this latest branch, they can use the time for more fun (business).

Jollibee marked another milestone as it became the first fastfood company to enter Aparri, which is located at the northernmost tip of Luzon.

"We are very proud to reach this part of the country and Jollibee will definitely be at home serving the happy hardworking citizens of Aparri," said Jose Mahinay Jr., Jollibee vice president for national business unit. He added that they immediately looked north after opening their 500th store in Batilan.

The hardworking citizens of Aparri were clearly very happy with the arrival of the leading quick-service restaurant chain in their town last week.

On July 26, crowds trooped to the 140-square-meter dining area for the opening, witnessing first-hand the ribbon-cutting and the taking of a giant Champ!

They were joined by Aparri Mayor Ismael Rumaris and Vice Mayor Norman Taberna in their delight as they were served with an abundance of Jolly Spaghetti, Chicken Joy, Peach Mango Pie and Yum Burgers.

The day after the opening, Aparri's new 24-store branch was finally opened to the public, attracting what seemed to be never-ending lines.

Just how excited were they? People started lining up at 5 a.m., for the 6 a.m. opening. While people from Jollibee were enough to be afraid that people would not show up, they were also smart enough to be prepared for a deluge of customers.

According to assistant brand manager Mike Diamond, one only did they by to staff from Manila to help out in the Jollibee branch. They also made sure they prepared seven times more food than the usual.

The three-day fiesta included a memorable along the town streets, a high school drum and lyre competition, fireworks, a concert and a variety show—complete with Jollibee and his other famous friends, of course. Aparri's residents were also in for a treat as the store had special promos and free attendance for the first 100 customers.

The kids were definitely the happiest. A bunch of them were so amazed at the Jollibee mascot—probably because he was their first time to see one—that they just stared at him and shook his hand for hours.

"It's an exciting time for all of us here in Aparri," says Dina Mendoza, marketing services manager for North and South Luzon. "The opening of a new Jollibee store means that good food made more accessible. In the meantime, it signifies a better life for everybody," she adds.

A SPECIAL, super-size Champ burger was a crowd-pleaser during the store opening.

AHHHH! Mayor Ismael Rumaris and Jose Mahinay did the honors of cutting the ribbon during the opening.

ing starfish stories

write about the whys and wherefores of fellowship

FINALISTS of the Starfish writing competition credit for the camera.

and Jhun G. arlenda around the Philippines; the Starfish magazine found those names buzz in Manila). Then etc.

"Dear Ujian a Bisaya" by Baby Lena D. Bulanos of Bongao State University; "Embracing Pinoy Cagayi" by Rona C. Padua of Dalaga Cdo Palanitos Compilation; "A Dreamer's Journey" by Rudi Clement G. Angeles of De La Salle Araneta University; "Are You?" by Mary Gina O. Bana of Isabel Sarcena Cdo Vilma University; "A Jail's Just about Doubt Time" by Rashid V. Pascua of Mindanao State University-Marawi City; "Thanks for a Day" by Karen Marie B. Bajana of Sun Dry Int. Academy; "A God-Loving Feelings... a Friend" by Jojo Abel C. Magsaysay of Our Lady of the Pillar College, Lanuguay; in photo; "Smile's Encouragement" by Daisy S. Antonio of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University; "The Pencil Dialogue" by Sheryl M. Soliman of Notre Dame of Cotabato Compostela; "Secret of Pinoy to Change" by Imma Mercia G. Delino of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; "A Friend" by Ramon Paulo T. Mata of Immaculate Trinidad Intermediate Memorial School; "Story of Discovered from Kaya Akiba" by Akiko S. Barquial of Saint Louis College; San Fernando; La Union; "Musings of a Young Financial Literacy Advocate" by Jairo Earl S. Mandolado of San Beda College; "Playground" by Ms. Theresa Irene D. Quemada of San Pedro College; "Life in a Different: The Water in Me" by Gerardo A. Manaquiz Jr. of the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP); "The Wasted Life" by Nicole Dominique C. Lanuzo of TIP; "Stand" by Ralph Anthony P. Palomar of University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos; "Our Little Contribution" by Cdo Erica B. Lara from the University of the Philippines Diliman; and "Instant Time" by Mary Bianca S. Colmenar of the University of the Philippines Diliman; and "Instant Glow" by Rabbiel G. Factrar of the University of the Philippines Visayas.

From the 20 finalists, the star five further pared down to the Top 10 lists names, and from the 10, three emerged as the winners. Third prize was awarded to Bulanos for "The Pencil Dialogue"; second place was given to Bana's "Are You?"; and Abel Uncle Sam," and first place was awarded to Gamalo for "One Story As I Time."

The winning entries were selected by Jacques D. Aguila, editor in chief of Entrepreneur magazine; Maricel Dragon of the Filipiniana Heritage Library and editor in chief of Ayala Now; and Marissa V. Ng, editor in chief of Investment magazine. The three winners received supplies and cash prizes from the Ayala Foundation, while all the finalists received special giveaways from various sponsors.

Playful problems

The writers shared how they tried to make a difference in the world. Bana, a student from Mindanao City, wrote, "A good ideas is a dead ideas. I have been doing up to early a nation, and several years trained before I finally could activist it was as modern business. ... The whole the a Mindanao war will forever be repaired with having a schools, a hospitals, a hotels, an entertainment person."

For some us, "My Sunday is fused with a lot of problems and concerns—poverty and crime, pawning computers to the government, drug addictions, and the like; we are all aware of the existence of these problems, providers remain unsolved."

Pineda continued, "With the help of some friends sharing similar dreams, I worked on formulating activities that will hopefully change the town and mindset for the community. Perseverance and determination joined the way in the success of the 'Kalilintad Youth Camp: Peace Youth Camp)' which was the first in the city."

Pineda ended his essay with an expression of hope. "We need hope to continue working for peace and positive social change and to eradicate the belief that the solutions to our problems are nowhere to be found. We need strength in order to honestly face problems and their consequences. We must persevere and for us not to easily give up and our resolve. Above all, we need faith to guide us in our journey towards the attainment of our goals."

On the other hand, Bulanos, an Ecumenical student from General Santos City, wrote about her experience as a student instructor at a journalism workshop in the Lumbayan Elementary School in Bacungan. "Teaching the basics to different fields of campus journalism was incredible hard because everything was new to them," she said. "Eventually, they were able to learn. We worked hand in hand and we all learned from the experience."

She concluded, "My life as a student writer and campus journalist wasn't just about the passion and love for writing. It wasn't just about harnessing and developing my skills to become good or better, the best in the field. It was about learning and sharing value you've learned. It was about touching lives and giving inspiration."

Gamalo, who hails from Q.C. Time," writes in this section was about the role of a writer in making a difference in society.

Along with the staff of Starfish, Ramon Jolo de Ayala, President and CEO of the Ayala Corporation, handed out the awards to the winners. He encouraged the winners to "never give up on pursuing soulful look into the way, even if the odds are stacked against you."

E-mail the author at thestarfish@yahoo.com

n youth

Engineering students try to build a car running on solar energy

SIBAG electrical team is responsible for the design and fabrication of all electrical components, instrumentation and even storage.

TEAM Sibag: bright hopes for solar energy

"We've focused on this challenge for now. Everything else except for our studies takes a backseat."

Ruben Obille leads the electrical team, where his positions for computers, nothing the batteries and playing strategy games across him and his teammates well.

"We've done so much research on schematics and assembly. It's difficult enough to build a car. Much more, a solar car!" said Mico Villena, 20, leader of the mechanical team. "But in the end, we hope all the hours studying and sacrificing for this endeavor will be worth it."

Under professor Rene Pernandez, the team has been diligently putting together Sibag's components body inside out of car bon fiber and Honine honeycomb core armament which will make it ultra strong and light.

At only 300 kg, the car is capable of reaching a maximum speed of 100 kph. Its 24 sq. m. of the car's top surface is covered with convected grade silicon solar cells from manufacturer Sunpower, that utilizes energy from the sun and converts it into electrical power.

Corporate sponsors of the car are Intel Group Philippines, Microlite, Philippine Airlines, Jack Miguel Corporation, Shell, Emerson, and Toshiba.

The project is also supported by nerds, Cabeza Lavadia and Associates, J. Walter Thompson, Citrasia, Mendo Pennors, Tuason Training School, Inchcape Testing Services, Technology, and Incinerator.

ARMY! Jose Jolly Spaghetti and Chickenjoy, Children also enjoyed the company of Jollibee during the Cheer-Up Fiesta.

ng lines welcome
e opening of homegrown
st food giant Jollibee's
00th store in the
rthernmost tip of Luzon

While Jollibee runs in Aparri, other major chains may not be far behind. Jollibee came at a perfect time, too, since the local government is in the process of spreading up the area and making it into a tourist town, complete with a re-vamped airport and road port.

The Aparri opening, according to the folks at Jollibee, coincides the company's come-to-town anniversary. From Aparri to Basilan, Jollibee is making sure millions and millions of Filipinos are heavily happy fed.

E-mail the author at mark_salas@yahoo.com

Ode to video games

PERCUSSIONIST Ross Bartak on a Yoshi's Island video of "Pixie" in Stockholm

From page D1

Grammy-winning maestro

Under the baton of Grammy award winner Arnie Roth (who has worked with the likes of Diana Ross, Charlotte Church, Peter Cetera, Air Linklatter), "Play!" debuted in May 2006 and has had sold-out runs in Stockholm, Sydney, Toronto, plus 16 cities in the United States.

It was an offshoot of the concert hour, "Final Fantasy Music From Final Fantasy" (that paid tribute to the work of the prolific Uematsu on the video game series.

"Play!" features themes from games such as "Super Mario Bros.," "Super Mario World," "Sonic the Hedgehog," "Metal Gear Solid," "The Legend of Zelda," "World of Warcraft," "Kingdom Hearts," "Chrono Cross," "Chrono Trigger," "The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion," "Blue Dragon," "Shenmue," "Halo," "Castlevania," "The Revenge of Shinobi," "Darkstalkers."

"We really try to create a program that is representative of the market that our play is," said producer Jason M. Peal.

"The program evolves, it adapts," he said. "While the huge catalogue of music we use pretty much rocks a non-linear every concert."

Dimension

Visuals accompanying the music added dimension to the program.

COMPOSER Nobuo Uematsu

At the Esplanade shows, for example, opening number "Super Mario Bros. Suite" had the audience laughing as rare video clips flashed simultaneously on widescreens. Spectators in Sweden and the UK shows were apparently amazed with the performance, too, as we discovered on YouTube.

But while the hits could provide close quarter videos of the show (some of which were even shot from covered ball balconies), nothing really beats a seat in the auditorium to catch special guests perform a surprise jaunt or quirky stunt.

Among the year's memorable guest performances were Takenobu Mitsuyoshi's take on his piece "Let's Go Away" (arcade game "Daytona USA"), percussionist Ross Bartak's take on the European run of "Play!"; and singer-songwriter Angela Aki's rendition of "Kiss Me Good-Bye" and "Eyes On Me" ("Final Fantasy" VII and VIII).

So what would it take to bring "Play!" to the Philippines?

"Not much," replied Peal, who has already received e-mail from Filipino fans requesting that the concert be staged in Manila.

"It's just a matter of orchestra, support from the government as well as the arts council, much like in Singapore where the National Arts Council was very instrumental in bringing 'Play!' [over]."

Partnering up

Since the concert's debut, "Play!" has partnered up with various local orchestras such as the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Miami Festival Orchestra and choir, Atlanta Symphony, Sydney Symphony, and the Singapore Festival Orchestra.

"I know there are high-caliber orchestras in the Philippines that can definitely handle this program," Peal said.

"FINAL Fantasy Play!"

E-mail the author at dtanglao@inquirer.com.ph

Video game music, the producer explained, is still a new phenomenon and the "Play!" concerts are really giving the genre exposure and taking it to the masses.

Given what the series endured for almost two agonizing weeks—being uncertain of your availability, stalking the show's every presentation's talk, club through SMS and e-mail, and exploiting what we could of the six-degrees association theory just for an explainable concert ticket—bringing "Play!" over to Manila is (not certainly a nefarious idea.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Ermita G. Velarde

Mobster-theme bash for Pidol

A BJ/SS for the birthday boy

DOLPHY is all ears as the Gerardo Sisters perform.

Says Zsazsa Padilla, head party planner: 'He was very happy with it. He loves gangster movies'

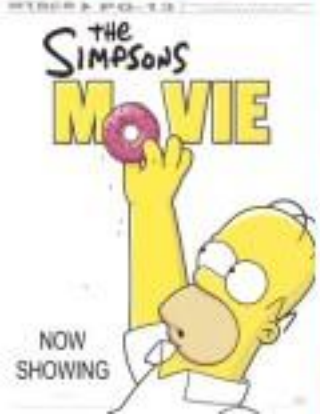
By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Espiritu

WHEN SINGER-ACTRESS ZSAZSA PADILLA was planning the 79th birthday bash for partner Dolphy with their daughters Nicole and Ria, the girls were sure of one thing:

"We wanted a mobster-theme, a la 'The Godfather,'" Inquirer recalled.

They visualized the men in dapper suits, the women in [illegible] and a man's jail because the Comedy King was born in 1928, Zsazsa explained. "He loves gangster movies. We de-

ABS-CBN bigwigs Gabby Lopez, right, with his biggest star.



SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

movietime exclusive presents

Watch the special SNEAK PREVIEW of

BLADES of GLORY

Regular Showing Starts August 8

MOVIE MANILA

MAX

LICENSE TO WED

HARRY POTTER 5

TRANSFORMERS

OUIJA

THE SIMPSONS

SPEAKING OF JAPAN

movietime

NOW SHOWING

LICENSE to WED

Much ado about Angel's e

"OSS 117 is BETTER THAN 007."
–French Ambassador Gerard Chemla

"One of the MOST ENTERTAINING FILM of the year. The premiere night crowd was beyond appreciative, LAUGHING SO HARD at one joke, they very nearly missed the next."

"It's damned FUNNY. The laughs go from smirks to soda spritters. Joy has been in short supply at the movies lately, and OSS 117 was a SHEER DELIGHT."

The British have JAMES BOND, AUSTIN POWERS and JOHNNY ENGLISH. The French only need one man to finish the job.

WELCOME TO MANILA!
DIRECTOR MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS
& LEAD ACTRESS BERENICE BEJO
OPENS TODAY

PG-13

FOOD SMALL LOOKIN' She's trying to lead a life of anonymity in London for a few weeks while taking a crash course in fashion design, and some quarters are exhausting all means to pull her down.

Whoa, she gets back, she willbe welcomed with open arms, or, thunder by her detractors. It's soul-stinging, galore just to cause of a business deal that has gone sour.

Although Angel has yet to formally sign a contract with ABS-CBN, her manager Becky Aguila has confirmed the transfer of her main asset from the Kapuso to the Kapamilya network. GMA 7 reasons all the right to feel sad because they were the ones who groomed Angel into the big star that she is now.

But they should not feel bad. Just like a parent letting go of a child, GMA, hopefully must be the first ones to be glad to see Angel soar to another territory. Why deprive her of broadening her horizons?

This as it may sound, the best gifts any mentor can give a protégé are encouragement and support. GMA has passed the way for Angel but she wouldn't have made it that far if not for her talent and hard work, too.

I find it hilarious that some network execs are showing too much emotion in their TV interviews about Angel's leaving. Shouldn't they be up to speed of the situation and somehow see not a indispensable?

Why resort to dirty tricks, like showing despite the backstabbing that she is a bad person, and desperate measures such as unleashing nasty rumors about her (abortion, sex video, secret lover... and infidelity) soon (Sandy's video camp)?

If they really believe all

PLDT presents

BO CERRUDO

and a 20-pc ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra

directed by FREDDIE SANTOS

August 2, 8, 15, 22, 30
September 5, 12, 19, 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
November 7, 14, 21, 22, 28, 29

8:00 PM
Teatrino, The Promenade
Greenhills Commercial Center

CERRUDO CLASSICO

songs from stage and screen

FOR TICKET INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL

BOSS DEBENHAMS ZARA

xit from GMA 7

Dolly Ann Carvajal

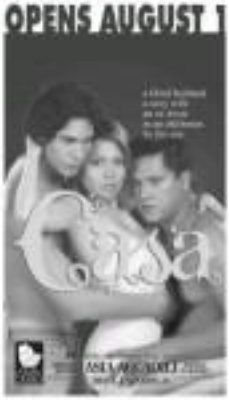
...most queen of GMA!" She blushed, "I don't want to think of it that way. There's too much pressure when you promote the network, you're the network, you are them. I'm humbled. I will try so do better in each show."

If she were Angel, would she make the big switch? "I would step per with the network who took care of her," she says. What's her advice to Angel? "I don't know the whole story behind the story. Sen. Jinggoy she should think a thousand times before finishing her decision because. Hindi lito ang pinanonood ang mga tao kung ng-GMA."

Hmm... If this's review women she write to be UKOL crown me. It's not only her rival wannabe that make her an asset to the network.

E-mail: wanting4ukol@yahoo.com

OPENS AUGUST 1



NOW SHOWING!

MIKE DAGNALAN'S
iSNATS
na-iSNATS na ba
ang cellphone mo?
August 1 to 7!
Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

MTRCB ▶ PG-13

CERTIFIED BOX OFFICE HIT!

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1		2	LICENSE TO WED	3	THE SIMPSONS	4	OUIJA
GLORIETTA 4	1	RATATOUILLE	2	OUIJA	3	THE SIMPSONS		
	4	ORDER OF PHOENIX	5	DIG 117	6	LICENSE TO WED	7	HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1	THE SIMPSONS	2	LICENSE TO WED				
GREENBELT 3	1	THE SIMPSONS	2	LICENSE TO WED				
	3	DIG 117	4	HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5	RATATOUILLE		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	LICENSE TO WED	2	THE SIMPSONS				
	3	RATATOUILLE	4	DIG 117	5	OUIJA		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	RATATOUILLE	2	THE SIMPSONS	3	WHITE HOUSE 2	4	IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1	OUIJA	2	BRIDGE OF JAPAN				
	3	DIG 117	4	LICENSE TO WED	5	THE SIMPSONS		
TRINOMA	1	OUIJA	2	HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3	THE SIMPSONS	4	RATATOUILLE
	5	DIG 117	6	BRIDGE OF JAPAN	7	LICENSE TO WED		

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Mechanical Magic
July 27 to 29, 2007 at the Activity Center

Greenbelt — Shop & Travel at Greenbelt 1 Promo
Get a chance to win one exciting prize and a trip to Boracay for every P500 worth of purchase of any Greenbelt 1 establishment mall
July 1 to September 30, 2007

Alabang Town Center — Virtual Mall Animation Animation
July 24 & 25, 2007 at the Activity Center

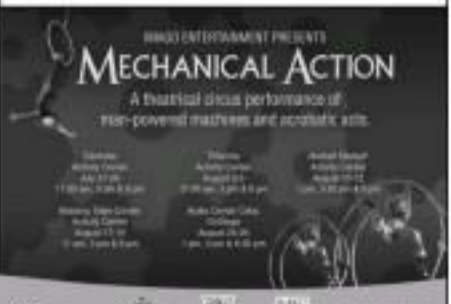
Ayala Center Cebu — Ultra Vision Exhibit
July 27 to 29, 2007 at Paseo

Market! Market! — Metro Fashion Week
July 10 to 11, 2007 at participating Metro department

Cinderella — Repertoire Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
at SM's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 687-87-91

Ayala Museum — KAMPAMANIA - a kids exhibition of metal sculptures by Kamal Mendiola
July 28 to August 5, 2007
For more info, pls. call 730-7510 loc 213 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — Magic 98.5's Amped on the Ramp
July 27, 2007 at the Activity Center
Mechanical Magic
August 1 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center



Araneta Coliseum
Gateway Mall
Greenhills
Shang CinePLEX 10
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
CSI 117
SINGING OF JAPAN
THE SIMPSONS
CASA
LICENSE TO WED
HARRY POTTER 5
DRUM BOARD
TRANSFORMERS
RATATOUILLE
LICENSE TO WED
MALL 5
1 CSI 117
2 SINGING OF JAPAN
3 LICENSE TO WED
4 CASA
5 DRUM BOARD
ARANETA COLISEUM
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK
LIVE! AUGUST 10 SUN / 7PM • BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Unanimously recommended by the MTRCB!!!
ALL AGES ADMITTED
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
"AMAZING!"
PIXAR REALIZES THAT MOVIES... ARE NOT JUST TALKING PICTURES. THEY ARE MOTION AND EMOTION PICTURES."
TIME
RATATOUILLE
Now Showing

PG-13
OPENS TODAY
TATANGGAPIN BA NATIN ANG MGA HAPON KAPAG LUMUBOG ANG BANSA NILA?
The #1 MOVIE in JAPAN!
SHOCKING BUT TRUE!
AS HOT AS TODAY'S HEADLINES
EARTHQUAKES, TSUNAMIS, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS...
FIRST JAPAN...THEN SOUTHEAST ASIA
SINKING OF JAPAN
MANY ELEMENTS IN THIS MOVIE ARE BASED ON REAL FACTS

Mobster-theme bash for Pidol

See page E3

QUEEN Nessun Dolphy and Coney surrounded by his kids and grandchildren in '70s garb.

SHANG CINEPLEX
RATATOUILLE
THE SIMPSONS
LICENSE TO WED
PREMIERE THEATER
Catch the Cineplex Special!
A Blockbuster Gift for all Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates

ZSAZSA welcomes Carmi Martin and Marichel Soriano.

BOTTI Quizon, Pidol's grandson.

ABS-CBN's Charo Santos-Concio

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE

MOVIE drama: birthday cake

MARICHU VERA-PERCE

DOLPHY and Elaiza thank their guests, Ai-Ai Delas Alas, their daughter, and Sunshine Dizon, look on.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MYRNA'S PG-13
First came love... then came Reverend Frank.
ROBIN WILLIAMS MANDY MOORE JOHN KRASINSKI
LICENSE TO WED

ticket to hold the party in Intramuros, to complete the Old Manila feel."

Over 100 guests—including VIPs like ABS-CBN CEO Gabby Lopez and Dolphy's "Tuba Ni Barkley" co-stars Nanette Boone and Marisol Barreto—trooped to Villa Intramuros in celebration with their friend in spite of the stormy weather on July 28, three days from the exact date, July 25.

With the help of veteran TV director Al Quiros and her ex Lyne, Elaiza staged a spectacular re-version.

She even visited a vintage fundraiser circa 1972 for the birthday boy.

"Everyone thought he owned a brewery as was all white, and the theme place was 'BIR,'" she said.

All the guests, among them Pidol's numerous children and grandchildren, came properly outfitted. (Elaiza herself donned a Nap Lauzel.)

Dolphy, she said, was "very happy; it was the right decision to throw him such a party as a gift."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

AURAUS Solito's "Pisay" costar did not make it to the finals.

BEST ACTORS: Foreground, "Tribu's" Young Cost, OG Sacred and LJ Cot.

ACTING is in the genes of their Actyan winner Ina Feleo, daughter of actors Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen.

Shrieks, roars at Cinemalaya awards rites

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esparo

FOR ONE SIMPLE REASON—"Marunong Tumilo ng records"—director Jim Libiran hopes to bring his full-length movie, "Tribu," to film festivals around the world.

"Tribu" won Best Picture in the recently concluded Cinemalaya 2007. Libiran would like to start a new film project right away, possibly on the Mindanao conflict.

His "Tribu" cast—Tondo gang members—may not be happy to hear that. They were hoping to do a sequel, even if it means sharing the screen with rival gangs.

"Tribu," which won for Auraus Solito the Best Director award, almost did not make it to the finals, because Libiran ran out of money.

"But because they discussed their problems with [the organizing committee] and took our advice, the movie was finished in time," festival director Nestor Jardin said after the awards show on Sunday night.

JURORS Johnny Sagga, Lito Zulueta and Mark Tessier

"Tribu" also won the Audience Choice and Best Production Design trophies. The awards ceremonies were held at the Tanghalang Aurelio Alvarado of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Ed Lejano's "Sinungaling na Buwan" was awarded for failing to beat the deadline. Jardin, who is also president of CCP, one of the organizers, noted, "[The submissions in] August will be rejected." The figures could help entries at risk, he said; the filmmakers just need to coordinate and cooperate.

The Audience Choice award for short feature was given to "Debut Vitta," by Sasha Alonzo, Wit Lalim and Calvin Cristobal. It was the first time in the festival's three years that the audience took part in the judging. Each ticket had come with a nomination form.

Jardin explained: "Most of the viewers are private knowledgeable in filmmaking."

This year's festival, he pointed out, is the "most successful" so far. "We surpassed our 10,000 audience target mark, and the box office revenue was at its highest, too."

"Tribu" lead actress Ina Feleo was so happy to win Best Actress, she vowed to continue acting. In fact, acting is easy enough in her genes. Her parents are actors Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen, who is also a filmmaker and Cinemalaya competition director.

SPECIAL Jury Prize winner Enrico Aragon ("Himalodi")

BEST Cinematographer Rodolfo Aves Jr. ("Radio")

Best Short Film Brent Jimmuel-Dela Cruz ["Tadoro"] said he was relieved, now that the festival is over. Since his sci-fi movie also produced "Radio," he had felt twice the usual pressure.

He said his group was set to work on the local theatrical release of "Radio."

The awards show evened was a mix of old and young. Cheering teens drinked and roared whenever the filmed Ghost hostels entries were flashed onscreen.

The theater was instrumental in crowd control as a concert hall when hip-hop rap artist Francis Magalona and rock band The Dawn performed.

Other guest presenters were Agot Isidro, a cast member of last year's Cinemalaya Best Picture "Tuhod ng Diyos"; Bid Lucero, cast member of "Vanessa"; 2006 full-length entry; Ricky Davao, Bing Pimentel and Aiza Seguerra, star of "Ligaw Liham," one of this year's entries.

Club zed

TEXT YOUR CHOICES CODE TO 288

Fetch these zed anime downloads!

Kawaii!

JAVA GAMES

RINGTONES

LOGOS

PICTURE MESSAGE

ANIMATED

INSPIRE

WALLPAPERS

TAWA

For only P5/day

Get 1 free item per day

Advantages:

3 steps to Club zed:

Send code to 288

www.zed.com.ph

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 - THX	6 LICENSE to WED
2 OUIJA	7 CASA
3 RATATOUILLE	8 Indistinct: ISMATS
4 SINKING of JAPAN	9 DIE HARD 4
5 OSS 117	10 THE SIMPSONS

ERMITA

1 OSS 117	
2 OUIJA	6 HARRY POTTER 5 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED	6 CASA
4 SINKING of JAPAN	7 RATATOUILLE

METRO EAST

1 RATATOUILLE	6 CASA
2 HARRY POTTER 5	6 LICENSE to WED
3 THE SIMPSONS	7 SINKING of JAPAN
4 OSS 117	8 OUIJA

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	6 CASA
2 LICENSE to WED	6 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA	

PIONEER

1 LICENSE to WED	3 RATATOUILLE
2 OSS 117	4 SINKING of JAPAN

STA. ROSA

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 PLANET TERROR
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 FRACTURE

LIPA

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 WILDERNESS
4 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
5 BORDERTOWN

DASMARINAS

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 BUG
4 NEXT
5 BORDERTOWN

IMUS

1 OUIJA
2 CASA
3 LICENSED to WED
4 BLIND DATING
5 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
6 HARRY POTTER 5

ANGELES

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 FRACTURE
4 PLANET TERROR

TARLAC

1 OUIJA
2 NEXT
3 THE CONDEMNED

STARMILLS

1 RATATOUILLE	4 PLANET TERROR
2 OUIJA	5 FRACTURE
3 HARRY POTTER 5	6 IN THE LAND of WOMEN

BACOLOD

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 FRACTURE
5 RESERVE
6 NEXT

ILOILO

1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE
3 NEXT
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 PLANET TERROR
6 THE SIMPSONS

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

ComicRelief

philstar.com/comicrelief

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JOSS ASERIN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAT. JUNIOR

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBIRDS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

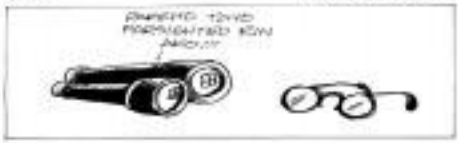
ATSUKO AND WISSOY — BY LYRA GARCIA-LANG

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAMILONIO

MIKO MACHINE — BY FRANCIS ASERIN

HUGOTKOMIKS — BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM HILARIDEZ



BEEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

4		2				6		
	1		6		2		7	
		3				8		
	8		7		9		4	6
				4				
	4	9	1	3	5	2	8	
		7				1		
		6				9		
			2	8	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★

© 2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. www.conceptispuzzles.com

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	9	8	4	5	7	3	6
8	7	6	3	2	1	5	4	9
4	5	3	6	9	7	8	1	2
6	3	7	4	1	8	9	2	5
1	2	8	9	5	6	4	7	3
5	9	4	2	7	3	1	6	8
3	6	5	7	8	4	2	9	1
9	4	1	5	6	2	3	8	7
7	8	2	1	3	9	6	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

Suddenly, Tondo … New Yorker gets 'pagpag' for lunch

By the Inquirer Group
Entertainment staff

FOREIGN JURY MEMBERS IN CINEMALAYA 2007 couldn't wait to go on a field trip to Tondo, setting of the three-peat winner, "Tribu." It was all that director Jim Libiran could do to suggest that they wait till the festival was over. They're going this week. Next week: destination?

But one foreign critic wouldn't be stopped. Christian Bautista got himself riding into those shacks of the park. He told Sunday the New Yorker even had "pagpag" for lunch. "Pagpag" is fast-food leftovers salvaged from the trash and reworked. How delicious?

Must be oodles

Remember the actor who spanked a young co-star with his own amorous ways?

He also starred in the Bibeg (Filipino version of Viva, he is walking at a role that would have him play father to a woman. Hello? Or has children that age? Middle-ears, surely.

Text from Becky

Becky Aguila, Angel Locsin's manager, texted Rodney from Europe to clarify a few matters, among them: 1) Angel's schooling in Columbia Fashion Institute was not paid for by ABS-CBN. 2) CBN 7 received a 15.0 percent commission, just like she did. So Angel's commercial endorsement deals made through the network's Artist Center.

* * *

Top of the talk shows

No thaw who missed the weekend's chaos on gab fests:

• Jaime Yllana at Pops Fernandez: "Sir Anda brother … Jaime! dignified! last ever. We too much other men when wow"

• Will Jam, on their rumored wedding dates: "Kung may announcement na pero'h, hindi bisaya. Hindi rhema yan eh."

• Kuya Kim's message to Boots Pope: "I love you … we will always [sound] by you."

• Pablo Sherrer's message to Janet Pope: "Sana mal I [will] always … support you … I pray [for you's] happy."

• Pops on Robin and Boots: "Made alam nung hindi nanapasa ang guam nung nung, sort ng combo mo, … at least nung dinevelop happy [for two kids, presentable] sa buhay ito, nagsama na nung tama."

• Judy Lee, asked about the alleged relationship between her businessman husband Gabby and singer-actress Vina Morales: "I hate't answer! Dat question. We have two kids, aged 11 and 8. We're doing fine."

• Jim Paredes on the resolution that his "Kung Hahanap Man Ang Diyos" co-star Gemma Cruz Araneta have "struck" long before the assisted show biz: "Nahulog kaya ako … dito lang ako nahulog." (She said's say it straight).

• Ormoc reaction: "Feeling ko, napaka-pressing kaiak ko, like, sobrang ang ingay ng [Ormoc] … ang ingay-ingay ng tao! That's a c- word.)

MAI ROTO

'No big deal' redefined

• GMA SVP for Entertainment Wilma Galvante on their upcoming Angel shoot reports she was flying the young "Dexter star asked if she was talking to ABS-CBN, and came she replied she was. Fine [done] ano'n Jose, when Close Maid, Joey Marquez GMA/Obra went to the set of "Amaya." "Dumating si Angel said, 'Sa panonin ba nila ako dito?' Joey took her word for it."

The second narrates, Galvante said, was on July 1, when Angel met (meeting with Angel, her manager Becky Aguila and their lawyer Joji Alonzo-Antonio). "[Gabi] si Becky, 'kami ako's meeting yan? Ano ang nagsabi na tapos ngayon? Hindi pa nawawa."

The best part of Galvante's story: "Angel said, 'Haha, hindi po ako ilipat, malaki na nabubuhay po kayo.'"

• Pedjie Magno, "Kano Donovan" pre-game show composer: "Pumili ako ng isang ch. 10 of emails ako. Maganda lang ako nung nanalo."

The other side

• Becky Aguila on GMA 7's claim that Angel earned P66 million worth of endorsements through the network: "It shouldn't be discussed in public because that's money matters … Kung ano man ang kinita ni Angel, malaki rin kaiser nag-mithiing sa mi work."

• Becky Aguila on the possible effects of the pending rift with GMA 7: "Sana hindi madamay ang ibang mga singko."

• Angel, from London, asked if she had signed any contract with GMA: "Hindipo po. Wala po pong nangyayari." (Talaga? Parang ang dami dami na.)

VINA MORALES

'Wow' word wonder

• Marian Rivera, on meeting Jhong Hilario for the first time: "Wow."

• Marian, viewing her publicity shots done by Jun de Jesus: "Wow."

• Marian, on her "shotmost" billboard on EDSA: "Wow."

* * *

Mel sells mansion

LOS ANGELES—It has only six bedrooms but it comes with a stunning view of the Pacific…and ocean privacy. Actor Mel Gibson has sold his Malibu beachside mansion for nearly $16 million, local press media reports. Gibson, 51, bought the property in 1982 for $1.1 million and has since built a 7,000-square-foot (650-square-meter) home on the site. The property has been on the market since last year. Gibson's ex-wife Robyn Moore received the home in their divorce settlement in 1990. Gibson is currently dating Russian pop singer Nadia Petrova.

HARIAN RIVERA

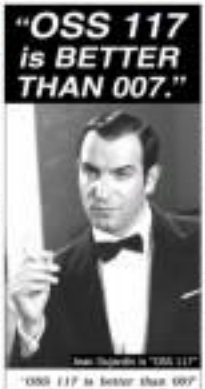
reported Sunday. AP

Short engagement

NEW YORK—The wedding between Usher and his pregnant fiance, Tameka Foster, scheduled last weekend, has been canceled, his publicist told The Associated Press. Publicist Pam Intro Rember would not comment on whether the two were still engaged. A court couple. AP

Precious bio

NEW YORK—Publishers vying for the rights to author Erich Hoffstetz' autobiography, "Precious," have reached the Rolling Stones—in London's advance is $7.2 million, according to the New York Post. Hoffstetz only good was to beat the world's $1 million advance. Hoffstetz Clapton snagged for his memoir, due out October, the Post reported. Reuters



Jean Dujardin in "OSS 117"

'OSS 117 is better than 007' quotes French Ambassador Gerard Chemel during the French Embassy's Bastille Day Celebration last July 14. The film takes the straight play on the usual James Bond stunts and turns it upside down into one of the funniest movies of the year.

Having won the Golden Space Needle award as the most popular film of the Seattle International Film Festival and the Tokyo Grand Prix award given to the best film at the Tokyo International Film Festival, this fabulous spy film tells the classic misadventures of OSS Agent 117 (played by French star Jean Dujardin) as he goes over there to settle scandalous in Nazi Cairo-ey. Though he is the younger partner and more the real literal version, the Dujardin has that clean's self-assured smile and that elegant deep-rolling voice which makes him funnier than your usual Austin Powers or Johnny English flick.

The magnificent and beautiful Berenice Bejo, who was in Manila together with "OSS 117" director Michel Hazanavicius to promote their movie in the female lead as the Brazilian player the smart sidekick to the movie—much smarter than 117—and she has that old school sharpness and a charm that is irresistible.

"It's damned funny!" says David Poland of MCN Reviews. "The laughs go from snirthe to soda splatters…the jazz has been to short supply at the movies lately, and OSS 117 was a sheer delight!"

"OSS 117" opens today in theaters.

Opening Today

Ismats

Stars: Teddy Corpuz, Ronald Tapas, Archie Adamos, Sterling Lalata

Directed by Mike Enriquez

An entry in the Pinoy Cinemalaya film festival, this digital feature tells the story of a cell phone searcher who gets entangled in a conspiracy masterminded by big time thugs. This "action-adventure" is based on a Palanca winning script and is an official selection in last year's New York Filipino Film Festival, where it was shown at the Imaginasian Theater. Shot in the streets of Tarlac and Iloilo, the movie boasts original music by Mike Hanopol, Sylvia La Torre and Rodriguezfor Saga Project, among others. Exclusively at Indochina, Robinsons Galleria.

OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies

Stars: Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo, Aure Atika, Philippe Lefebvre

Directed by Michel Hazanavicius

This French spy actually came before Bond. According to Lisa Rinzler of Variety, author Jean Bruce created OSS 117 four years before James Bond saw print. Nonetheless notes that this action movie features "sparkling production design, a judiciously retro score and a genuine flair for 1960s TV-and movie vocabulary." It won the top prizes at the Tokyo and Seattle film fests.

License to Wed

Stars: Robin Williams, John Krasinski, Mandy Moore

Directed by Ron Krupits

Robin young couple (Krasinski and Moore) must endure a tough pre-married course under an over-bearing pastor (Williams). Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times describes it as "an outrageous comedy … a pastiche of tortured slapstick, gross-inducing dialogue and a verbal tissue of wretched excess." Former of Washington Post differs, though: "It's frightfully amusing and in case a extremely persuasive."

The Jo

Stars: Shae Blazers, Lauren Jenkins, Bill Moseley, Mare Ryan

Directed by Bobby Roth

A termination (Blazer) and a serial killer (Moseley) play a cat-and-mouse game in which the former must solve a series of genetically fatal riddles. Jessica Green of Village Voice rates potentially: "What happens when a thriller finds Agnes?" Frank Scheck of The Hollywood Reporter cites directors it as "a psycho-killer movie [with] less gore and more mood and religious plot complications." Lawrence Toppman of The Charlotte Observer says that "it has a triple twist ending, highly appropriate for a picture whose plot depends on permutations of the number three."

Sinking of Japan

Stars: Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, Sen Hishinuki, Etsushi Toyokawa, Mai Daichi

Directed by Shinji Higuchi

Based on the 1973 novel "Submersion of Japan" by Sakyo Komatsu, this disaster flick asks: What would happen if a massive earthquake hits the island nation known for its scientific achievements? Beyond-Hollywood.com thinks "it's not exactly the stuff of dramatic legend, but … it's still fun for a visual feast." Cinemaniacs.com agrees: "No doubt the CGI sequences are emotion-ing." Amateurcrash.com notes: "An amazing looking film … beats the same means to make for (the ol' hint of 'Godzilla' and 'Gojira' films."